

REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON 2 JULY 2008

SUBJECT: LOCAL AREA FORUMS - REQUEST TO MEET WITH ELECTED MEMBERS

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To consider a request from the Moray Forum for a meeting with elected members.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Council consider the request for a meeting from the Moray Forum.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council has previously agreed to put the proposals for creation of area committees out to consultation with communities with a closing date of 29 August 2008. The consultees include Local Area Forums, Community Councils, Community Associations, Parent Councils, Tenants Forums and other bodies with an interest in council services.

3.2 To date, the Council has circulated a copy of the consultation document to the bodies detailed above, and in addition 600 copies have been supplied to Moray Voluntary Services Organisation so that all of their 600 members can participate in the consultation.

3.3 The Chair of the Moray Forum has now approached the Council and requested a meeting with all elected members "to discuss a joint way forward, so that the maximum benefit of both Forums and Local Committees can be discussed and hopefully agreed".

3.4 The Council has also been informed that the Moray Forum was compiling a document which was to be circulated to every elected member in order to ensure that members were aware of what every Forum was doing, together with their arguments for maintaining Forums as they are now.

3.5 The Council is asked to consider how to respond to the request from the Moray Area Forum.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan
None

(b) Policy and Legal

None

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

None

(d) Consultations

Given that a consultation process concerning Local Area Committees is underway, it would not be appropriate to make decisions until that process is completed. A meeting would require to be considered as part of the consultation exercise.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 It is recommended that the Council consider the request for a meeting between the Moray Forum and all elected members.

Author of Report: Alastair Keddie

Background Papers: e-mails form Chair of Moray Forum dated 27 May 2008

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