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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>9 October 2014</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Property Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>GM/LP/060/14</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Gerard Malone</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712710</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>CoSLA</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Council to consider the continuation of its membership of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA).

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 It was the decision of the Council at its 20 February 2014 meeting to instruct the Chief Executive to serve notice to terminate its membership of CoSLA with effect from 1 April 2015, but reserving the Council's right to withdraw this notice at any point during 2014/15 depending on the outcome of the review of the CoSLA Constitution and Standing Orders.
- 2.2 The CoSLA review of its Constitution and Standing Orders was completed in June 2014 and reported to the Convention at that time.
- 2.3 This report requests the Council to consider its position and to confirm whether or not it wishes to continue with membership of CoSLA.
- 2.4 A further report will be submitted in due course, when the implications of any Council withdrawals from membership of CoSLA are known. At present, it is thought that four Councils may be considering their individual positions.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- 3.1 considers the terms of this report and decides whether to continue its membership of CoSLA; and,
- 3.2 remits it to the Chief Executive to inform CoSLA, accordingly.

**Gerard Malone**  
**Head of Legal & Property Services**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 It was the decision of the Council at its 20 February 2014 meeting to instruct the Chief Executive to serve notice to terminate its membership of CoSLA with effect from 1 April 2015, but reserving the Council's right to withdraw this notice at any point during 2014/15 depending on the outcome of the review of the CoSLA Constitution and Standing Orders.
- 4.2 The review of the CoSLA Constitution was considered at the Convention's meeting on 27 June 2014.
- 4.3 The main issue of constitutional review was the relationship between the Convention and Leaders. The revision of the Constitution is to ensure there is a clearer expression in the Constitution to ensure there is no hierarchy between the Convention and Leaders.
- 4.4 This issue along with the other revisions are fully expressed within the report entitled "Review of Constitution" issued by CoSLA to the Convention and explaining the extent of the detailed changes to the Constitution. This CoSLA report with its colour-coded, detailed comparison of the previous Constitution and the new, approved Constitution has been sent electronically to all Members.
- 4.5 These changes give effect to the constitutional review and the conclusion of the June 2014 Convention is to adopt the new Constitution.
- 4.6 On this basis, the Council is asked to consider whether it wishes to continue with its membership of CoSLA.
- 4.7 A further report will be submitted in due course, when the implications of any Council withdrawals from membership of CoSLA are known. At present, it is thought that four Councils may be considering their individual positions. These implications may affect the extent of CoSLA's representative voice for Scottish local government and also may have some consequences for the financial arrangements for its remaining members.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

#### 5.1 Financial Implications:

##### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

##### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
CoSLA Subscription			£60,000		As allocated within existing Council budgets

### Legal

- 5.2 There are no Legal implications.

### **Human Resources**

5.3 There are no Human Resources implications.

### **Equalities**

5.4 There are no equalities implications.

### **Repopulation**

5.5 There are no repopulation implications.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The CMT endorses this report.

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 CoSLA "Review of Constitution": CoSLA Convention 27 June 2014.