

## ANGUS COUNCIL

## POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

12 MAY 1998

**CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES -  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS 1998/99****Report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance****ABSTRACT**

This Report advises the Policy and Resources Committee of COSLA's recommendations for to individual local authorities' subscriptions/financial contributions to national partner organisations in 1998/99.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee

1. Note the range of organisations and the levels of subscriptions being suggested by COSLA for the financial year 1998/99 from individual local authorities, and
2. Instruct officers to bring forward reports to appropriate Committees in relation to each of the bodies listed in Appendix 2 to this report.
3. Note that the COSLA Education and Cultural Services Forum have agreed:-
  - (a) that specific recommendations on funding for the national performing arts companies should not be issued for 1998/99;
  - (b) to continue to encourage Councils to provide financial support for the companies; and
  - (c) to await reports on the discussions to be held between the Convention and the national performing arts companies.

**2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Prior to local government reorganisation, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities recommended to individual local authorities, on an annual basis, levels of suggested subscription to what COSLA considered to be national partner organisations. Over

the five years prior to local government reorganisation, the number of organisations appearing on this list and the levels of suggested subscription increased substantially.

COSLA have, over the past two years, been trying to come to an agreement as to what national organisations should be included in the list in future years, and what the recommended levels of subscriptions should be.

During the same period (the past seven years) local authorities have found themselves under considerable financial pressure and as a consequence cuts have had to be made in grant aid budgets. This applies to both service department and corporate grants.

A letter has been received by the Chief Executive from Cosla setting out their recommendations as to named organisations and the level of suggested financial contribution to them for the financial year 1998/99. Appendix 1 to this Report is a copy of that letter.

Early in the life of Angus Council, the Council instructed the Chief Executive to undertake a review of grant aid arrangements which were operated by our predecessor authorities (Angus District Council and Tayside Regional Council) and to make recommendations as to a future grant aid system that might be operated by Angus Council. The new system operated by Angus Council has worked effectively and efficiently, and has been welcomed by voluntary organisations across Angus. The new system introduced a consistency of guidance notes, criteria, etc., and a single application form.

### **3. MEETING THE COSLA SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS**

Appendix 2 to this Report:-

1. Column 1 sets out the names of the organisations which might receive financial support as 'national partner organisations';
2. Column 2 identifies the budget head from which current support to the organisation is currently met; or if no support is currently given to an organisation, the most appropriate departmental/budget head under which future financial assistance should be considered;
3. Column 3 identifies the level of funding support awarded by the Council to the organisation in the financial year 1997/98;
4. Column 4 and 5 identifies the sum of money which Cosla recommends Angus Council should award to these organisations; and
5. Identifies the financial implications should the Council wish to meet the COSLA recommendations in 1998/99.

It can clearly be seen that, if the Council were to meet the suggested recommendations as set out by Cosla, it would need to reduce financial contributions/grant aid to other local organisations.

Officers believe that the excellent working relationship that is now in place between officers of the Council, Elected Members and voluntary organisations is of such significance, that to reduce financial contributions/grant aid to that sector locally would have major detrimental effects on these working relationship.

It is therefore suggested that officers be instructed to make every effort to meet the Cosla recommendations for national partner organisations from within existing budgets and, where this is not possible, officers be advised that priority should be given to those national partner organisations which provide a direct service or benefit to the Angus area and/or its residents.

Members are advised that in respect of COSLA's recommendations on the five National Performing Arts Company, the COSLA Education and Cultural Services Forum have agreed:-

- (a) that specific recommendations on funding for the national performing arts companies should not be issued for 1998/99;
- (b) to continue to encourage Councils to provide financial support for the companies; and
- (c) to await reports on the discussions to be held between the Convention and the national performing arts companies.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications arising as a consequence of this Report.

#### **5. CONSULTATIONS**

The Directors of Finance, Law & Administration, Social Work, Education, Planning, Transport & Economic Development, Recreation Services, and Cultural Services have all been consulted during the preparation of this Report.

**Note:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this paper.



31 March 1998

Your Ref:

To: Chief Executives

Our Ref: F/6/5 - W/LT

Dear Chief Executive

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS 1998/99

I refer to my letter of 23 December 1997 advising you of COSLA's recommendations in respect of financial assistance to national partner organisations for 1998/99, this following on from a review of COSLA's guidance.

Since advising organisations of these recommendations a number have written to COSLA requesting a reconsideration of either the recommended rate or their exclusion from COSLA's recommended list. At its meeting on 13 March the President's Panel considered the detail of these appeals and agreed to endorse the previous recommendations made by the Strategy Forum with the exception of two revisions as follows:-

- (a) in respect of the Scottish Low Pay Unit the recommended rate should be £32.50; this revised rate was notified to you in my letter of 9 January; and
- (b) for the Rural Forum it is probable that only rural councils will contribute towards this body but the COSLA rate previously recommended applied to all councils. Accordingly the President's Panel agreed that a revised recommended rate of £9.73 per thousand of population from rural councils should be adopted.

Taking into account these changes I attach, for your attention, a revised list of recommended rates for 1998/99.

In considering the appeals from organisations the President's Panel recognised that the criteria adopted for considering an organisation's inclusion in the guidance was strictly drawn up to cover organisations that are seen to be key national organisations closely associated with local government as a whole. As a part of the review which was undertaken it was also recognised that, as a basic rule, organisations should make direct charges to councils for specific services provided and any COSLA/

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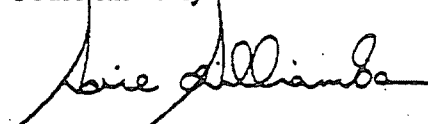
COSLA recommendations are only in respect of the core activities of the organisations. Also, subscription based organisations make direct charges to councils based on rates set independently and therefore it was considered inappropriate to incorporate such subscription based organisations within COSLA's list of recommendations. It was agreed that it is important that COSLA's recommendations are tightly focused in order that councils under current financial constraints may give consideration to their adoption.

It was recognised that it is important to identify the prime purpose of COSLA's recommendation which is aimed at assisting to meet the core costs, ie beyond those which can be recovered by service specific charges of the organisations. The fact that an organisation does not feature on COSLA's recommended list does not prevent it approaching councils directly seeking financial assistance in order that individual councils may make local judgements on appropriate funding levels. More importantly, however, will be for COSLA to work closely and in partnership with national organisations with a view to promoting their activities to councils. Such work does not necessitate the organisation's inclusion in the recommended list.

These factors should be taken into account when your council considers COSLA's recommendations on financial assistance.

As a part of the criteria for inclusion within the guidance, organisations are required to submit an annual application; that application including a business plan setting out the organisation's proposed activities and financial forecasts together with a statement on the nature of recent activities. I attach, for your attention, such applications which have been received in respect of organisations on the recommended list. Applications are still outstanding in respect of Family Mediation Scotland, the Scottish Community Education Council and Scottish Youth Theatre. These will be forwarded to you as soon as received. It is hoped that in future years this process may be undertaken at an earlier date in order that recommendations and organisations' applications forms may be circulated to councils in the autumn preceding the financial year to which the recommendations apply.

Yours sincerely



Norie Williamson  
Head of Finance

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## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

### Recommendations for 1998/99

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommended Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>Appendix Attached</u>
Age Concern Scotland	18.00	1
Children in Scotland	17.60	2
Family Care	25.90	3
Family Mediation Scotland	20.00	
Rural Forum Scotland	9.73	4
Scottish Childminding Association	17.00	5
Scottish Community Education Council	11.30	
Scottish Council Development and Industry	12.00	6
Scottish Human Rights Centre	9.60	7
Scottish Council for Educational Technology	8.30	8
Scottish Council for Research in Education	10.00	9
Scottish Council for Single Homeless	6.50	10
Scottish Library and Information Council	9.70	11
Scottish Low Pay Unit	32.50	12
Scottish Youth Theatre	12.00	
SENSE Scotland	18.00	13
Tenant Participation Advisory Service	7.40	14

## APPENDIX 2

Organisation	Responsible Service Department	Amount Contributed in 1997/98	Recommended Rates for COSLA per 1,000 population	Suggested 1998/99 Contribution	Shortfall
Age Concern Scotland	Social Work	257	18.00	1,998	1,741
Family Care	Social Work	905	25.90	2,875	1,970
Scottish Childminding	Social Work	148	17.00	1,887	1,739
Scottish Council for Single Homeless	Social Work	536	6.50	722	186
SENSE Scotland	Social Work	289	18.00	1,998	1,709
Children in Scotland	Social Work	460	17.60	50% of 1,954	517
Children in Scotland	Education	540	17.60	50% of 1,954	437
SCEC	Education	1,000	11.30	1,255	255
SCET	Education	Nil	8.30	922	922
SC for Research in Education	Education	1,000	10.00	1,100	100
Family Mediation Scotland	Corporate	Nil	20.00	2,220	2,220
Scottish Human Rights Centre	Corporate	30	9.60	1,067	1,037
Scottish Low Pay Unit	Corporate	2,200	32.50	3,608	1,408
Scottish Youth Theatre	Corporate	200	12.00	1,332	1,132
TPAS	Housing	950	7.40	822	-128
SCDI	Planning	1,332	12.00	1,332	Nil
Rural Forum	Planning	1,800	9.73	1,081	-719
Scottish Library Information Council	Cultural Services	914	9.70	1,077	164