

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES: COSLA
COMMUNITY SAFETY EXECUTIVE GROUP AND BID
MANAGEMENT GROUP**
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 8 OCTOBER 2008
**Author: ACTING DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION
SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of:

(a) the establishment of COSLA's Community Safety Executive Group and to invite Council to nominate a Member to the Group and

(b) a request to nominate a representative to join the BID (Business Improvement District) Management Group

2. COSLA COMMUNITY SAFETY EXECUTIVE GROUP

2.1 COSLA indicated during the summer its intention to establish a new Executive Group to deal with matters relating to community safety. In particular, COSLA intended to establish a mechanism which would integrate the policy development and lobbying activity of the core of local government with Police, Fire and Criminal Justice authorities. It identified a number of issues such as police/fire pension shortfalls and commutations which could have a financial impact on both local and police/fire authorities. The intention is to establish a forum with a strong cohesive voice to address such issues.

2.2 Since the summer matters have progressed rapidly. It was felt by COSLA that there were a significant number of current issues in the Executive's work area which demand a single cohesive local government voice if services, resources or both were to be protected and as such there was an urgency in setting up the Group. It was proposed by COSLA that the most practical means of establishing the Group was to set it up quickly as a Pilot and to monitor its progress, making any changes as necessary and then establishing it constitutionally when this work was completed.

2.4 To that end the first meeting of the Pilot Group was called recently. The proposed membership is as follows:

Members

- Chair and COSLA Spokesperson (Councillor Barbara Grant – East Renfrewshire Council)
- 1 COSLA Spokesperson

- 2 COSLA Vice-Presidents
- 4 Fire Conveners
- 4 Police Conveners
- 4 Community Justice Conveners
- 20 Members from remaining local authorities
- COSLA President (Ex-officio)

Advisers

- 1 Representative from SOLACE
- 2 Representatives from the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS)
- 2 Representatives from the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA)
- 2 Criminal Justice Chief Officers (CJCO)

3. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

- 3.1 Members will recall the establishment of a BID in Falkirk following the successful ballot announced in May. A BID is a business led initiative within a defined geographical area where businesses work together to invest collectively in local improvements to their business environments. All businesses within the Falkirk BID area will pay a 1% levy on the rateable value of their premises as detailed in the BID Business Plan.
- 3.2 A nomination is now sought from the Council to join the BID Management Group. There are 12 places on the Group with 5 going to the retail sector, 3 to leisure/hospitality interests, 2 to office/financial and one place each to Falkirk Council and Central Scotland Police. The function of the Group is to play a leading role in delivering the BID objectives over the next three years

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To invite Council to nominate a representative to sit on the CoSLA Community Safety Executive Group.
- 4.2 To invite Council to nominate a representative to sit on the BID Management Group.

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Acting Director of Law and Administration Services

Date: 30 September 2008

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil