

# North Lanarkshire Council Report

## Council

Does this report require to be approved?  Yes  No

Ref AM Date 19/12/24

## Membership of Outside Bodies

**From** Andrew McPherson, Depute Chief Executive

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### Executive Summary

Following a report to Council on 21 December 2023, covering Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Working Group and Outside Bodies, there was a decision taken for Council to remove its membership from 17 external agencies.

Following a request from services to reinstate membership of APSE to full Council on 4 October, there was agreement to postpone any decision until the next Council meeting with a request that a report setting out the advantages/disadvantages and financial implications of leaving the outside bodies be submitted for consideration.

This report provides the detail requested and recommendations on the operational membership of each organisation.

### Recommendations

That Committee agrees to continue operational membership of:

1. Clyde and Loch Lomond Local District Joint Committee
2. Environmental Protection Scotland
3. Ethnic Minorities Law Centre
4. Glasgow Airport Consultative Group
5. Industrial Communities Alliance
6. North Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum
7. North Lanarkshire Area Support Team

### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	All priorities
Ambition statement	All ambition statements
Programme of Work	Statutory / corporate / service requirement

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Following a report to Council on 21 December 2023 covering Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Working Group and Outside Bodies, there was a decision taken for Council to remove its membership from 17 external agencies.
- 1.2 Following this decision, several services across the Council expressed concern as to the operational impact on leaving APSE. Following consideration of a report relevant to this at Council on 4 October, it was agreed that a further report be submitted to Council on 19 December outlining the advantages/ disadvantages in leaving the organisations and the financial impact.
- 1.3 This report provides details of the information requested; however, it should be noted that this is from an operational impact only. As withdrawal of membership was agreed by members on 21 December 2023, it has been assumed that there is no change in this position regarding the appointment of elected members to the external agencies. Any recommendation to continue membership will be for operational reasons only and will not require the appointment of any elected member.

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## **2. Report**

- 2.1 Appendix 1 to this report provides a list of those agencies where membership was removed following the Council decision in December 2023 and provides the list of operational advantages/ disadvantages in leaving the agency together with the financial cost.
- 2.2 From this information, it is proposed that the Council continues its operational membership of the following agencies:
  - Clyde and Loch Lomond Local District Joint Committee
  - Environmental Protection Scotland
  - Ethnic Minorities Law Centre
  - Glasgow Airport Consultative Group
  - Industrial Communities Alliance
  - North Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum
  - North Lanarkshire Area Support Team
- 2.3 The total cost to services in maintaining these memberships amounts to £15,661 and this cost is covered within existing service budgets.
- 2.4 In addition to those organisations where continued membership is supported, it is also proposed that the following memberships are removed so there is no operational involvement:
  - Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority
  - Lanarkshire Business Gateway Steering Board
  - National Association of Councillors
  - North Lanarkshire Municipal Bank
  - Nuclear Free Local Authorities
  - Road Safety West of Scotland

- Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances
- West of Scotland European Forum
- Woodland Trust Scotland

- 2.5 A number of those organisations listed above are already dissolved and the overall annual saving associated with removal will amount to £4,786. The value of £42,896 associated with membership of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Authority is not included as this organisation is in the process of being wound down.
- 2.6 Renewed membership of APSE is currently postponed until such times as an ongoing potential liability issue affecting all members is resolved. Once this matter has concluded then a further report to Committee will be provided recommending whether the Council renews its operational membership.

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### **3. Measures of success**

- 3.1 Continuing operational membership of the agencies highlighted within paragraph 2.2 above will allow areas of improvement and efficiency to be identified across a wide variety of Council services.

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### **4. Supporting documentation**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 Operational Advantages and Disadvantages of Membership of Outside Agencies and Financial Implications.



**Andrew McPherson**  
**Depute Chief Executive**

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## 5. Impacts

<b>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty</b> Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?  If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? <a href="https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments">https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments</a> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5.2 Financial impact</b> Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?  Continuation of those memberships identified will incur a relatively modest cost and will be covered within existing financial budgets.
<b>5.3 HR policy impact</b> Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
<b>5.4 Legal impact</b> Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
<b>5.5 Data protection impact</b> Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk">dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk</a> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5.6 Technology / Digital impact</b>

Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?

Yes  No

**5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact**

Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

**5.8 Communications impact**

Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

**5.9 Risk impact**

Is there a risk impact?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?

**5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty**

Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

**5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact**

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes  No

Name of Agency	Advantages of Membership	Disadvantages of Membership	Annual Cost	Recommendation (Retain membership / remove membership)
<p><b>Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)</b></p> <p><i>Networking community supporting local authorities to improve frontline service delivery.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement in benchmarking across the public sector;</li> <li>• Access to training programmes and seminars across a diverse range of service areas;</li> <li>• Sharing of information and best practice across the 300 local authority members; and</li> <li>• Access to regulatory advisory groups covering a diverse range of front-line service areas.</li> <li>• Scottish Government Consultations and have given evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing &amp; Planning Committee on local government workforce issues most recently.</li> <li>• UK West Minister groups including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Parks Action Group (PAG) and provide the Secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for School Food.</li> </ul>	<p>Annual cost – although access to important information like benchmarking and access to training materials/courses and the opportunities presented by networking across sectors means the Council benefits from cost avoidance in other areas.</p>	<p>£17,430</p>	<p><b>Postpone decision on membership until outcome of potential liability issue.</b></p>

<p><b>Clyde and Loch Lomond Local District Joint Committee</b></p> <p><i>One of Scotland's 14 Local Plan Districts for flood risk management.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has a statutory obligation under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (FRM Act), to collaborate with adjoining authorities within the same catchment area (Local Plan District) and contribute to the publication of statutory Local Flood Risk Management Plans (LFRMPs). The Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District is North Lanarkshire's local district, and the Joint Committee plays a key role in discharging statutory responsibilities.</li> <li>• Membership allows for the agreement, approval and publication of statutory Section 37 interim reports and Section 38 final reports by the lead authority (Glasgow City Council) with North Lanarkshire Council input.</li> <li>• Joint Committee meetings include presentations and discussion to inform of latest policy and practice.</li> <li>• Any potential issues or recommendations that need to be raised with Scottish Government have more weight if brought by the Joint Committee rather than the Council alone.</li> <li>• Notice has been served to cease membership at the earliest opportunity being the end of the current cycle in 2028 – this could easily be rescinded.</li> </ul>		N/a	<b>Retain membership</b>
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<p><b>Environmental Protection Scotland</b></p> <p><i>Organisation promoting and supporting work towards sustainable development in Scotland.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) aims to bring together individuals and organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors to discuss and promote ideas, knowledge and solutions to achieve our common goal of a cleaner, quieter, healthier and sustainable Scotland. EPS is active and influential in the fields of air quality, land quality and noise, and has historically provided expert led training events and workshops with CPD recognition which helps environmental practitioners to learn and share best practice. We don't know if future training will be available (see 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point in next column).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual cost, albeit not significant</li> <li>• EPS is currently working with a research consultant to review the strategic vision of the organisation with a view to how it should be structured and move forward, given the withdrawal of funding from the SG. As things currently stand, all the groups are suspended until a new structure is in place. The Terms of Reference etc. are all being reviewed as part of this process.</li> </ul>	<p>£700</p>	<p><b>Retain membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>On assumption that organisation is continued in the absence of SG funding.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Ethnic Minorities Law Centre</b></p> <p><i>Supports efforts to promote inclusivity and protect the rights of ethnic minority and disadvantaged groups in relation to access to justice.</i></p>	<p>Provides essential legal and family support to our Black and Ethnic Minority (BAME) residents and communities who find it difficult to access legal and associated family support elsewhere due language barriers and other challenges. This is in the context of a circa 80% increase in the number of residents within North Lanarkshire who are from a BAME background as confirmed in the 2022 census data. The Council has also made a very public commitment to supporting BAME communities through its recently published "Our Lives" research which is focused on the needs of our BAME communities and was led by a member officer working group. Given we have supported this organisation for many years, withdrawal of membership may also require the completion of a full EQIA assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual cost, although this is in the form of a community grant.</li> <li>• Justification that the spend is focused on a minority group.</li> </ul>	<p>£9,798</p>	<p><b>Retain membership</b></p>



<p><b>Glasgow Airport Consultative Group</b></p> <p><i>Group invite views of bodies within the airport flight path on matters relating to the operations and future developments of Glasgow Airport</i></p>	<p>Ability for North Lanarkshire's voice to be heard on matters that may affect the area.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>	<p>N/a</p>	<p><b>Retain membership</b></p>
<p><b>Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority</b></p> <p><i>Comprised of eight local authorities in Clyde Valley area to work on strategic development planning matters.</i></p>	<p>This organisation is now being wound down and current meetings are only about financial matters relating to the winding up.</p> <p>The Strategic Planning function, including development of Regional Spatial Plan is now incorporated Glasgow City Region, and will support delivery of statutory strategic planning functions and delivery of Regional Economic Strategy priorities.</p> <p>A Regional Spatial Planning Sub-committee has been established and elected member representation has been agreed.</p>		<p>£42,896</p>	<p><b>Remove membership</b></p>

<p><b>Industrial Communities Alliance</b></p> <p><i>Provides collective voice to call for funding and policy initiatives to promote economic development and regeneration of industrial areas.</i></p>	<p>The Industrial Communities Alliance campaigns on issues around economic development and regeneration facing industrial areas and regions across the UK.</p> <p>The ICA provides regular policy and research reports which provide the council with a comprehensive overview of key economic development, funding and regeneration topics, challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>The ICA responds to consultations, and lobbies national government and devolved administrations on behalf of its members on key issues, policies and their impact on industrial areas. This includes areas such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of the Budget</li> <li>• The impact of Spending Reviews</li> <li>• Funding for local and regional development and the need for the provision of longer-term funding. This includes key funds such as the Levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Towns Fund, Investment Zones and Freeports</li> <li>• Apprenticeships</li> <li>• Welfare to Work</li> <li>• Industrial Strategy</li> <li>• The Steel Industry</li> <li>• The Coalfields</li> <li>• And other relevant topic areas</li> </ul>	<p>Due to the location of some meetings across the UK, it is not always possible to attend all the meetings.</p>	<p>£5,163</p>	<p><b>Retain membership</b></p>
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<p><b>Lanarkshire Business Gateway Steering Board</b></p> <p><i>Previous joint group with South Lanarkshire Council to support the management of the Business Gateway contract servicing both areas.</i></p>	<p>No longer meets – not required as service now delivered ‘in house’.</p>		<p>n/a</p>	<p><b>Remove membership</b></p>
<p><b>National Association of Councillors</b></p> <p><i>Promotes the interests of elected members across the UK and provides training and education for elected members</i></p>	<p>Potential for training and education for elected members, although the uptake of NLC members is unclear.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>	<p>£1,694</p>	<p><b>Remove membership</b></p>
<p><b>North Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum</b></p> <p><i>Supports the Council’s responsibilities under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003</i></p>	<p>Assists with engagement e.g. hard to reach, disadvantaged, communities, etc, especially with regards to improving and managing public access in North Lanarkshire. The Forum is an official consultee.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p><b>Retain membership</b></p>
<p><b>North Lanarkshire Area Support Team</b></p> <p><i>Supports the administration of the Children’s Panel including Elected Member oversight of new panel members</i></p>	<p>Ensures effective governance around the Children’s Panel in conjunction with learning and development co-ordinators, panel practice advisors and panel representatives.</p> <p>Ensures Elected Members are involved in the selection of new panel members and investigate matters arising from complaints against panel members.</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p><b>Retain membership</b></p>
<p><b>North Lanarkshire Municipal Bank</b></p> <p><i>Previously a savings bank operating across North Lanarkshire.</i></p>	<p>Decision to cease operation of North Lanarkshire Municipal Bank. Company was dissolved on 1 August 2023.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p><b>Remove membership</b></p>

<p><b>Nuclear Free Local Authorities</b></p> <p><i>Promotes the development of policies that understanding the impact of nuclear energy on local communities</i></p>	Ensures the voice of local government is heard where nuclear policy has an impact on local communities.	Doubts over the effectiveness of the group when there's already a forum such as Cosla to discuss matters such as these in Scotland	£3,074	<b>Remove membership</b>
<p><b>Road Safety West of Scotland</b></p> <p><i>Provides guidance on the identification and assessment road safety hazards</i></p>		Member / officer forum is no longer active and last convened pre-covid.	n/a	<b>Remove membership</b>
<p><b>Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances</b></p> <p><i>Aims to give factual advice to councils on radiation and radioactive waste matters</i></p>	None identified	None identified	n/a	<b>Remove membership</b>
<p><b>West of Scotland European Forum</b></p> <p><i>Develop positive links between communities and the institutions of the EU.</i></p>	This group no longer meets and has been dissolved	N/A	N/A	<b>Remove membership</b>
<p><b>Woodland Trust Scotland</b></p> <p><i>Manage around 60 woods in Scotland, including with North Lanarkshire. Aim to halt the loss of native woods and trees and restore existing woodland</i></p>	None identified	None identified	N/A	<b>Remove membership</b>