

	<p>Policy and Resources Committee</p> <p>10 June 2014</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Reference from Council- membership of the Local Government Association</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p>Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A - Business Item –Cllr Brian Coleman- Council 8 April 2014</p>
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<p>Summary</p>
<p>A Non-Executive Business Item was submitted to Full Council by Councillor Brian Coleman proposing that Barnet withdraw from the Local Government Association. The item was not dealt with at the meeting.</p>
<p>Business items not dealt with at a meeting of Council are then referred for consideration and any necessary action to the relevant committee. This report therefore requests the Committee to consider the matter.</p>

Recommendations

1. That the Policy and Resources Committee consider the Business Item referred to it from Full Council.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 A Non-Executive Business Item was submitted to Full Council on 8 April 2014 by Councillor Brian Coleman proposing that Barnet give notice to withdraw from the Local Government Association (LGA). The full text of the item is attached at Appendix 'A'. The item was not dealt with at the meeting.
- 1.2 Under the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution, Business items not dealt with at a meeting of Council are then referred for consideration and any necessary action to the relevant committee (unless the mover requests that a vote is taken at the meeting, which was not the case in this instance).
- 1.3 This report therefore requests the Policy and Resources Committee, as the Committee within whose Terms of Reference this matter falls, to consider the matter.
- 1.4 The main benefits of Barnet remaining a member of the LGA is that it allows the council to be part of a collective platform for promoting Local Government and helping to set the political agenda as it relates to the sector including through negotiation and engaging with - and lobbying of - central Government, businesses and other organisations; represents a mechanism for sharing best practice and facilitating joint working across Local Authorities; and provides support through peer challenge, leadership development and other direct support.

The LGA state that the benefits of membership include the following;

- the opportunity to influence their work through membership of boards, panels, commissions, advisory groups or the Councillors' Forum
- access to support and advice for councillors through their political group offices
- access to up-to-the-minute news, briefings and daily news headlines on the LGA website through a suite of subscription e-bulletins
- discounts on selected LGA services, including improvement support and leadership programmes
- support on national media relations including in times of crisis
- access to a wide range of free or discounted events
- access to legal advice, opinions and guidance on complex issues
- opportunities to join their special interest groups
- use of facilities at Local Government House, including free meeting room hire
- invitations to Royal Garden Parties

- 'first magazine' delivered bi-weekly.
- **Local Futures** – free and discounted services provided by research and strategy consultancy specialising in geographically reviewing social and economic change

1.5 As part of the Council's commitment to transparency the Council has developed a "Transparency Portal" – that enables the easy publication of raw data in a form that can be readily utilised by interested external parties. The portal will go live in the next couple of weeks and will put the Council at the forefront nationally of public sector transparency. The development of the portal was made possible by the award of a £43,000 grant from the LGA in 2013/14

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 This Committee is requested to give its instructions.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Any decision taken by the Committee on responding to this item will be implemented as soon as is practicable.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 Not applicable

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The Council's current subscription costs £60,000, and 12 months notice is required to terminate.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Constitution, Part 4, Council Procedure Rules: 23.5 'if the Member's business item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it will be referred to an appropriate Committee or Council sub-Committee for consideration and any necessary action'.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 None specifically arising from this report.

5.5 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 None specifically arising from this report.

5.6 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 None specifically arising from this report.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Local Government Association- LGA Membership- downloaded from <http://www.local.gov.uk/membership>

APPENDIX A

Council: Tuesday, 8 April 2014

Non-Executive Business Item: Councillor Brian Coleman

Membership of the Local Government Association

Council notes its' current membership of the Local Government Association which currently costs the Council taxpayer £60,000.

Council further notes its membership of the London Councils and believes membership of that organisation is sufficient to deal with the Council's Political lobbying and representation needs.

Council resolves to give the LGA the required 12 months notice and to withdraw in 2015.