

MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Miss E Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER: Martin Jepson, Head of Legal & Democratic Services
REPORT AUTHOR: Denise James

Summary: To consider Councillor Membership of the National Association of Councillors

Recommendation:	That a) the NAC be asked to make a presentation to Members prior to a final decision being made
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Impact on Delivering Corporate Objectives Contributes to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council

Impact on other Statutory Objectives

Financial and Human Resource Implications: £1071 for all Members paid from the underspend on Members Allowances 2005/2006

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** No
- **Ward:** No

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Association of Councillors (NAC) is the only fully constituted representative body for elected Council Members throughout Britain. It is an all-party body representing the interests of Councillors throughout the United Kingdom and is run for elected members by elected members.

The NAC work to enhance the role of the Councillor and to assist them to be as effective as possible in undertaking their various roles. Their services include: -

- **National Representation**

A forum for Councillors to meet and discuss issues of concern and advocates on behalf of members on issues that directly concern them. The NAC's voice at Westminster ensures that member's views/concerns are heard by Government.

- **Comprehensive Training programmes**

Wide ranging residential courses providing Members with skills and information on their various roles in local government.

- **Accommodation Finder**

To ensure best value for members attending conferences

- **Free & Discounted Legal Service**

Through a partnership the NAC are able to offer a comprehensive range of legal services to members and their families.

2. ARGUMENT

Although the association boasts over 7000 Members with 100% Membership in Scotland and Wales the only member in the North West is Carlisle City Council. Carlisle City Council's Members have been members for some years, with Councillor J Geddes representing Carlisle City Council on the NAC Northern Branch.

The Associations General Secretary, Councillor P Mole, he has indicated that he would be willing to come to Copeland and give a presentation to Members on the benefits for Councillors to join the association. This could be done jointly with Allerdale should they confirm that they are also interested in gaining further information.

3. CONCLUSIONS

That on face value there appear to be many benefits to the Council for joining the association, as it would provide a useful source of information for Members, an opportunity for networking with Members from other areas, training and development opportunities, and a vehicle through which issues of general concern in local government can be given a higher profile. However in the first instance it is recommended that the presentation offered by Councillor Mole to all Members prior to a final decision being made be accepted.

List of Appendices

List of Background Documents:

NAC information pack

List of Consultees: