

Item: 11

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 12 November 2019.

KIMO.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider Elected Member representation on the environmental group, KIMO.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That KIMO is a local authority international environmental organisation designed to give municipalities a political voice at regional, national and international level, with a clear mission statement and is committed to the development of coastal communities.

2.2.

That the Council has been a member of KIMO for many years, with an Elected Member and an officer attending the four KIMO UK meetings per annum and occasionally attending the KIMO International conference.

2.3.

Council policy on appointments to external bodies, as outlined in section 4.2 of this report.

2.4.

That, on 29 October 2019, the Harbour Authority Sub-committee referred consideration of elected member representation on KIMO to the Development and Infrastructure Committee, noting that it was supportive of the proposal to appoint an elected member.

2.5.

That, as the term of this Council is five years, it is proposed that, should an appointment be made to KIMO, it should last for the remainder of the term of this Council, namely for three years until May 2022.

It is recommended:

2.6.

That an Elected Member be nominated to represent the Council on the environmental group, KIMO.

2.7.

That, should a Member be appointed, the appointment should be for the remainder of the terms of this Council, namely for three years to May 2022.

3. Background

3.1.

KIMO is a local authority international environmental organisation designed to give municipalities a political voice at regional, national and international level. There are over 70 members in Belgium, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. KIMO International was formed in 1990, quickly followed by national organisations with KIMO UK being formed in 1991.

3.2.

The stated mission of KIMO International is a commitment to the development of sustainable coastal communities by:

- Preventing pollution of the seas and coastal waters of North West Europe and preserving, improving and enhancing them for future generations.
- Protecting coastal communities from the impacts of marine pollution and climate change.
- Representing its member local authorities and associated members at an international and national level.

3.3.

Current issues for KIMO UK include:

- The provision of emergency towing vessels in Scotland.
- The transport of nuclear material by sea.
- Marine litter.

3.4.

Current projects are:

- Fishing for Litter Scotland.
- Fishing for Litter South West. (Fishing for Litter are regional projects where litter picked up by fishing vessels can be safely and correctly disposed of by bringing it ashore.)

- Net Recycling Scotland.
- Pick Up Three Pieces.

3.5.

In addition, the UK Co-ordinator is a member of the Scottish Marine Litter Strategy Steering Group.

4. Proposal

4.1.

The Council has been a member of KIMO UK for many years originally via Environmental Health and, more recently, Marine Services. An Elected Member, together with an official, previously attended meetings up to four times per annum and occasionally the annual conference organised by KIMO International. At present there is no nominated Elected Member acting as the Council's representative on KIMO.

4.2.

In April 2007, appointment of Councillors to external bodies ceased with the exception of the following:

- Organisations which are wholly owned by the Council.
- Organisations in which the Council has a majority financial interest.
- Statutory organisations or other bodies to which a Council appointment would be prudent.

4.3.

By having Elected Member representation on KIMO, this will provide the continued local authority and marine environment link with the other 70 members of KIMO, at a time when the marine environment is of high importance and vital to the sustainability of the Orkney environment.

4.4.

On 29 October 2019, the Harbour Authority Sub-committee discussed the growing importance of the range of environmental matters covered by KIMO to the Council in recent years, particular the recent context of the declaration of a Climate Emergency. The Harbour Authority Sub-committee expressed the view that this changing context was considered significant to the consideration of KIMO membership, and that a case could be made to support elected member representation on KIMO.

4.5.

The Sub-committee referred consideration of elected member representation on KIMO to the Development and Infrastructure Committee and further observed that, whilst any Member of the Council could take on this role, there is likely to be an advantage from selecting a Member serving on the Harbour Authority Sub-

committee due to the breadth and up to date knowledge of relevant marine matters that members of the Sub-committee have.

4.5.1.

Membership of the Harbour Authority Sub-committee currently comprises the following:

- Councillor Robin W Crichton.
- Councillor David Dawson.
- Councillor Andrew Drever.
- Councillor Graham L Sinclair.
- Councillor Magnus O Thomson.
- Councillor Owen Tierney.
- Councillor Kevin F Woodbridge.

4.6.

It is therefore proposed that an Elected Member be nominated to represent the Council by attending KIMO UK and International meetings.

4.7.

As this Council is for a five-year term, it is further proposed that this appointment, if approved, should be for the remainder of the term of this Council, namely to May 2022.

5. Corporate Governance

This report relates to governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

6. Financial Implications

The additional funding required as a result of the recommendation of this report, namely attendance by two people at four meetings in the UK per annum, and attendance at the annual KIMO International Conference, estimated at £5,000 per annum, can be contained within existing Harbour Authority Scapa Flow Oil Port budget.

7. Legal Aspects

There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendation of this report.

8. Contact Officers

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