

2 QUALITY SCOTLAND FOUNDATION (AN263-2002)

Reference is made to Article I of the minute of meeting of the Finance Committee of 14th February, 2002 wherein it was agreed to withdraw from membership of the Quality Scotland Foundation (QSF) as part of the 2002/03 Revenue Budget savings exercise. The overall cost of membership of the Quality Scotland Foundation (QSF) for 2002 is £4,750.

Since withdrawing from membership of QSF it has transpired that costs arising from complying with Best Value and Performance Management continuous improvement action plans would be in excess of £7,000 more than previous costs. This is due to the fact that QSF provide free courses and materials for implementation of the EFQM assessment process, which would otherwise require to be purchased separately.

In 2002/03 the fee is split £2,500 direct QSF levy and £2,250 COSLA Quality Supplement. The Chief Executive has confirmed that the £2,500 can be met from savings made through the consumer panel tendering process and the Director of Finance will accommodate the cost of the Quality Supplement (£2,250) within the Finance Department Budget for 2002/03.

It is recommended that the Committee endorses rejoining the Quality Scotland Foundation (QSF).