

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2005**  
**REPORT ON: OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPIONS NETWORK**  
**REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING)**  
**REPORT NO: 116-2005**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To recommend participation in an Older People's Champions' Network being established by COSLA and to seek approval for the appointment of an Older People's Champion.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- i) the Council agree to participate in an Older People's Champions' Network which is being established by COSLA
- ii) the Convener of Social Work be appointed as the Older People's Champion, with a remit to act as a link with older people's organisations and ensure that the needs of older people are taken into account in the strategic planning process

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The only direct financial implications will be travel and subsistence expenses involved in attending meetings of the Network.

**4 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The report aims to ensure that the profile of issues affecting older people is raised, and that services are planned and delivered to meet their needs.

**6 BACKGROUND**

6.1 At the COSLA Convention meeting on 19 December 2004 it was agreed that:

- all member authorities consider appointing an Older People's Champion to act as a link between local older people's organisations and the Council's strategic planning process
- such a champion preferably be an elected member with officer support
- their details be provided to COSLA to enable it to make contact so that consideration can be given to the development and support arrangements for an Older People's Champions' Network

6.2 The general concern is to ensure that arrangements are in place to improve governance within local authorities to better include older people. The focus of attention for the Network is likely to be on issues such as:

- addressing issues and concerns raised by older people
- sharing good practice in service delivery and strategic planning
- highlighting and resolving common problems
- making representations to the Scottish and UK Parliaments on issues of joint concern
- better informed Community Planning

6.3 It is recommended that the Council should participate in the Older People's Champions' Network, and that the Convener of Social Work would be an appropriate member to appoint as Older People's Champion, although the remit will be to ensure that the needs of older people are considered in the planning and delivery of all Council services.

## 7 **CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executives have been consulted on this report.

Chris Ward  
Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning)..... 08/03/2005