

**LOCAL COUNCILS CONFERENCE**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the Report of the Local Councils Conference held on 11 September 1999.
- 1.2 To consider proposals for a similar event in the Autumn of 2000.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Local Councils Conference was held on Saturday 11 September 1999 at the Civic Offices, Central Milton Keynes and was attended by over 90 delegates. A Conference Report has now been published and has been circulated to all Local Councils and other participants. A copy of the Report has also been circulated with this agenda. The Report sets out issues the Conference delegates identified as ones they would wish to see pursued. It is hoped that individual Local Councils will consider these issues independently but the Assembly might wish to identify particular issues that they would wish to be pursued.
- 2.2 There has been a very positive response to the Conference with many delegates expressing the wish that a similar event be held next year. If it is the wish of the Assembly, then it is suggested that a Local Council's Conference be held on Saturday 9 September 2000.
- 2.3 One the main successes of the Conference was that a number of Local Councils had an input into the Conference. Isabella Fraser was greatly involved in the organisation of the event, Local Councillors and Clerks assisted in facilitating the workshops and Discussion Groups and a number of Local Councils provided material for the display stands. It is suggested that a useful way to build on this success would be to involve even more Local Council's in the organisation of next year's event to ensure that the event meets their needs. In particular, it would be helpful to have an input from Local Councils on the content and nature of the Conference.

2.4 It is suggested that a small group of representatives of Local Councils might meet with officers of the Council to consider how the Conference might be structured and contribute to the organisation of the event. The group should consist of about five Councillors and/or Clerks of Local Councils and should be representative of both urban and rural areas. The first meeting of the group could be held early in the new year and could report to the March and June meetings of the Assembly on progress made.

3. **Recommendations**

3.1 That the Report of the Local Council Conference 1999 be received.

3.2 That a further Local Council Conference be held on Saturday 9 September 2000.

3.3 That a small group of representatives of Local Councils meet with officers of the Council to consider the arrangements for this Conference.

Background Papers: None