LEADERSHIP GROUP

FUTURE OF SPMN

Executive summary

1. The future of the Scottish Parliament Management Network was previously discussed by LG at its meeting on 28 February. Following that I agreed to consider the matter further and come back to you at a later date.

Issues and options

2. I am still of the opinion that the SPMN, in some format, remains a useful forum and provides value to the organisation. Feedback has suggested that members find the primary value for them is as a vehicle for networking with colleagues. We should therefore focus on this. With this in mind, I am inclined to extend membership of SPMN to Leadership Academy members and rename it the ‘Leadership Network’ (LN).

3. As mentioned previously, I believe having an AC/CE take responsibility for the planning of each event has worked well in the past. I would therefore propose to assign overall responsibility for the new Leadership Network to Lynda Towers. This is a logical extension of the role she already plays in providing leadership and direction to the Leadership Academy. Lynda has agreed to take on this role. I expect her to assemble a leadership network management board comprising a representative from each business Group. This board will be given responsibility for developing an operational framework for the LN and organising events accordingly. I anticipate there still being 2 or 3 events each year but, given the increased number of members, would not expect everyone to attend each event. The management board may, however, wish to consider holding one event each year where all members are asked to attend but I will leave that option open for it to decide.

Resource Implications

4. A small budget has been allocated in the CE Office budget to cover minimal refreshments during sessions. This budget will be transferred to Lynda. Resource has also been identified within the corporate training budget to cover external speakers and the provision of some presentation training.

Governance issues

5. There are no governance issues relating directly to this paper. LN events will be subject to individual EQIAs.
Publication

6. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB’s Publication Scheme.

Next steps

7. If the LG agrees the points below, I will ask Lynda to establish a management board to take forward development of a programme of events for the next 12 to 18 months.

Decision

8. The Leadership Group is asked to agree:

8.1 That a new Leadership Network (LN) be established with the main focus being to facilitate networking by its members.

8.2 That the membership should consist of all members of the Leadership Academy and Leadership Group.

8.3 That Lynda Towers be assigned responsibility for the Leadership Network, with her first task being to set up a management board to develop an operational framework.

8.4 That the LN meets 2 or 3 times a year, with topics for discussion being agreed by the management board.

8.5 That Chris March continues to be involved at the early stage of planning of each session to ensure support is available to any staff involved in presenting content and to assist in identifying and enlisting the services of external speakers.

Clerk/Chief Executive
June 2011