

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2014
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	KIMO AGM 2014
REPORT NUMBER	EPI/14/257
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to ask approval for the Council to be represented at the Kommunenenes Internasjonale Miljøorganisasjon (KIMO) Annual General Meeting (AGM) taking place in Denmark 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014. KIMO is an International Environmental Organisation for Local Authorities.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that committee:

1. Select and approve a Councillor to attend the AGM to represent Aberdeen City Council; and
2. Determine if an officer is required to attend the AGM with the selected Councillor.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Approximate cost of 1 person to travel = £1,210

Table 1: Breakdown of costs

Item	Approximate costs	Comment
Flights	£450	Return flights
Airport transfer	£100	2 way taxi transfers
Accommodation	£375	£125 per night x 3 nights
Subsistence	£285	£95 per 24 hour period x 3.
<b>Total 1 person</b>	<b>£1,210</b>	<b>Councillor only</b>
Total 2 persons	£2,420	Councillor and officer

Flights, airport transfers, accommodation and officer subsistence costs detailed in Table 1 above will be funded from the Environmental Policy team's budget which has an allocation to cover costs associated with

KIMO (budget code C27113 46111). Councillor subsistence costs will be funded from the Members budget (budget code M56400 32122).

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

KIMO International:

Kommunenenes Internasjonale Miljøorganisasjon (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation) or KIMO was founded by local municipalities with a shared concern for the state of the marine environment. As marine pollution is a complex problem, which does not adhere to national boundaries it was necessary to create an organisation that could be co-ordinated on an international basis. KIMO was founded in Esbjerg, Denmark, in August 1990 to protect, preserve and enhance northern Europe's oceans. KIMO is designed to give municipalities a political voice at the international level, to share best practice and to find solutions to marine political problems that affect coastal communities.

KIMO represents over 100 members in Belgium, United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Faeroe Islands, The Netherlands, The Republic of Ireland and the Isle of Man (associate member) representing over 6 million people. KIMO is considered a pioneering environmental force which has contributed to a steady reduction in marine pollution in Europe's seas.

KIMO has operational 'national networks' in five countries; the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium and Sweden. In addition, there is a newly established KIMO Baltic Sea network which will act as a 'forum' to develop marine environmental policy and coordinate new projects. KIMO also has 'non-active' member countries in Norway & the Republic of Ireland and associate members in the Isle of Man and Foroya Kommunefelag.

KIMO UK:

KIMO UK is comprised of ten local council members. The KIMO network in the United Kingdom was formed in 1991 shortly after the establishment of KIMO International. Grampian Regional Council was a founding member of KIMO UK. The main issue for the network in the early years was the reprocessing of nuclear material at Dounreay and Sellafield and considerable success has been achieved in this area.

KIMO UK's lobbying, along with others, has resulted in the closure of Dounreay, a 90% reduction in emissions of Tc 99 and a considerable reduction in discharge allowances for nuclear plants across the board. Maritime safety is an important issue and the network was involved in the Lord Donaldson enquiry and was instrumental in ensuring that the

National Contingency Plan was extended to cover all types of pollution not just oil. The disposal of oil installations in the North Sea has also been an area where KIMO UK has campaigned against threatening proposals such as the dumping of the Brent Spar oil platform.

Other key areas of work include: marine pollution, fishing for litter campaign, nuclear emissions and transportation, pollution from the oil and gas industry, maritime safety and pollution, emergency towing vessels, dumping chemical and conventional munitions at sea, hazardous substances, eutrophication and dangerous pesticides.

*Aberdeen City Council's Membership:*

As previously mentioned, Grampian Regional Council was a founding member of KIMO UK. Membership was transferred to Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Council's in 1996. In recognition of this status Aberdeen City Council is entitled to appoint three Councillors and an officer to attend meetings. Councillor Milne is currently appointed as lead for KIMO to attend the quarterly UK Business meetings. He is supported in this role by a Sustainable Development Officer from the Environmental Policy team.

As a member of KIMO UK we are also expected to attend the AGM, the location of which rotates amongst member countries. Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Council's jointly hosted the AGM in 2011, and will be in Denmark in 2014 (AGM invitation attached as Appendix A).

The conference & AGM this year will focus on microplastic pollution and its impacts on marine ecosystems as well as safety and preparedness to combat major oil spills.

6. IMPACT

Attending the KIMO AGM will allow the Council to share information and gain a better understanding of the current issues contributing to maritime pollution. It will also provide an open forum for the Council to express any specific concerns regarding any marine pollution issues we have which KIMO can help to explore. This will help to further the high level priority for the smarter environment contained in the 5 year Corporate Business Plan.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risk of not attending is that Aberdeen City Council will not show the necessary support for the organisation (which we pay an annual membership fee to be a part of) and may miss out on key opportunities to undertake demonstrative environmental projects or opportunities to make joint representations against proposals affecting our marine environment.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

AGM 2013 Invitation (Appendix A)  
KIMO Annual Reports can be accessed here:  
<http://www.kimointernational.org/KIMO-Annual-Report-2011.aspx>

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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