

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	7 September 2010
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	The KIMO International Conference & Annual General Meeting to be held in Lithuania 8th-10th October 2010
REPORT NUMBER	EPI/10/218

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the progress of KIMO - the International Local Authorities Environmental Organisation and to seek committee approval for an Elected Member to attend the forthcoming 20th KIMO International Conference & AGM to be held in Palanga & Klaipeda, Lithuania on 8th-10th October 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:-
1. Notes KIMO International and KIMO UKs' progress to date, and
 2. Approves an Elected Member and officer to attend the KIMO International Conference & Annual General Meeting on 8th to 10th October 2010.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of attending this will be approximately £1000. Provision has been made for this as part of the 2010-2011 budget process.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 4.1 European policy and representation supports the Council's objective of representing the interests of the people and organisations of Aberdeen within North East Scotland, the UK and Europe. It also promotes Aberdeen locally, nationally and internationally. This work supports the environmental and economic priorities within the City's Community Plan, in particular valuing our natural environment. This work also supports the aspirations contained in the Council Administration's Policy. In particular ensuring the sustainability of a successful economy for Aberdeen and minimising the impact of council activities on the environment.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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- 5.1 There are inevitably risks associated with overseas travel. As far as possible, measures relevant to the destination are taken to reduce risks in line with the Council's policies. It is important that Aberdeen is fully represented in all relevant European matters and that all opportunities for influencing policy for the City's benefit are taken whenever possible.
- 5.2 The work undertaken through the Council's membership of KIMO is aimed at ensuring the sustainability of our coastline and marine resources for future generations by working collaboratively with our European neighbours. The Council's work through KIMO supports the European strategy of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the work of the East Grampian Coastal Partnership. Such work assists in strengthening and developing current and future trans-national projects.

6. REPORT

Background

- 6.1 KIMO is an international association of local authorities, which was founded in Esbjerg, Denmark, in August 1990 to work towards cleaning up pollution in the North Sea. Since then, its remit and membership has expanded to also include the Irish Sea, North East Atlantic and the Arctic Seas.
- 6.2 Aberdeen City Council is a member of KIMO, along with over 128 members in 10 countries including the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Republic of Ireland, with associate members in Germany, the Faeroes Islands and the Isle Of Man. National networks exist in each country and hold meetings on a regular basis on marine pollution issues that effect coastal communities.

Update KIMO International and KIMO UKs' progress to date

- 6.3 KIMO UK has grown and, amongst its activities has been the drive to highlight under-the-waterline pollution issues which impact not only upon marine life but also the way such incidents impact upon local authorities and their communities. KIMO UK held its 2nd conference on 18 June 2010 in Inverness, which focused on the impacts of pollution from shipping and discussed methods of reducing that pollution. Presentations at the conference focused on topics such as marine litter, air pollution and The Clean Shipping Project. This event examined in depth air pollution from shipping and various technological and environmental solutions. Local examples were debated and examined revealing potential impacts which are relevant to the Aberdeen context. In particular the efficiencies and impacts of ferry travel from Aberdeen to the Shetland Islands were discussed.
- 6.4 KIMO International holds Non Governmental Organisation status at the North Sea Ministerial Conferences, the Committee of North Sea Senior Officials, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic and the International Maritime Organisation (as part of the WWF Delegation). It has links with the European Parliament

and Commission and sends representatives to take part in various stakeholder involvement events in various countries.

- 6.5 Membership to both KIMO UK and KIMO International is extremely beneficial to the Council and the City of Aberdeen. As it provides an international voice to lobby and progress under-the water-line environmental impacts that could be a risk not only to the City but the North Sea Region as a whole. KIMO UK and KIMO International have advanced many of the environmental marine debates relevant to the city and have been instrumental influence in the Marine Bill, EU Directives and the force behind Fishing for Litter.
- 6.6 Due to the on-going funding constraints, officers aim to ensure that KIMO meetings have been restricted to locations that are easily accessible by public transport Officers will ensure that the most cost and carbon efficient travel method is found to attend the KIMO International Conference and AGM.
- 6.7 Travel and accommodation costs for KIMO have been planned within the environmental strategy budget for 2010-2011.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Jan Falconer, Strategist Sustainable Development,
jfalconer@aberdeencity.gov.uk 01224 522662

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

<http://www.kimointernational.org/>