

**PROPOSAL FOR ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL TO BECOME A UK MEMBER OF THE CPMR  
POLITICAL BUREAU**

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**1. SUMMARY OF ISSUES**

- 1.1 This report is to advise of the nomination of Cllr Robb to become a UK Member of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) Political Bureau.
- 1.2 The secretariat of the CPMR required nominations to be submitted by 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at the latest as the next election to the Political Bureau is taking place on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012.
- 1.3 The nomination of Cllr Robb was submitted to the CPMR secretariat on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012 following authorisation by Chief Executive after consulting with Members under section 3.2.5 of the Council Scheme of Administration and Delegation.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the nomination of Cllr Robb to the CPMR Political Bureau.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Council is a member of the CPMR on an annual subscription basis.
- 3.2 The objective of the CPMR is to influence EU institutions and national governments to ensure its member's needs and interests are met, so that regions are taken into account in the development of policies which have a territorial impact.
- 3.3 The CPMR is one of the largest local government lobbying organisations in Europe with around 160 member regions. It specifically works with European institutions, such as the European Commission and European Parliament, on issues which particularly affect remote, coastal and island regions. The CPMR has six 'Geographic Commissions' which enable the members to work in smaller groups on areas of specific interest. The Council is a member of the Atlantic Arc Commission, with Cllr Robb is a member of the Atlantic Arc Political Bureau, and the Council also has observer status on the Islands Commission.
- 3.4 The CPMR will be one of the networks which will be used by Argyll and Bute Council when seeking to influence the new Structural Fund programmes which will run from 2014-2020.
- 3.5 The Argyll and Bute Council lead councillor regularly attends the CPMR Annual General Assembly (AGA) with officer support. The AGA takes place once a year in a member region. The meeting this year will take place in Poland from 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

4.1 It is requested that the Council approves the recommendations in **Section 2.1** of this paper.

#### 5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The implications for Argyll and Bute Council are as outlined in **Table 5.1** below.

<b>Table 5.1: Implications for Argyll and Bute Council</b>	
<b>Policy</b>	The CPMR is a strong lobbying group and influential at a European level. Close engagement with this group and its relevant geographic sub-groups will assist Argyll and Bute Council in its preparation for the 2014-2020 European funding programmes with a view to maximising access to, and drawdown of funds.
<b>Financial</b>	There will be financial implications in the cost of twice yearly travel and accommodation to the bureau meetings, which take place in one of the CPMR member regions in a European location. The Council is normally represented at the CPMR AGA and a bureau meeting tends to take place at the same time, so the financial implications involve attendance at one extra meeting per year.
<b>Personnel</b>	Officer support will be necessary prior to each of the bureau meetings in the form of briefings and possibly accompanying the elected member to bureau meetings.
<b>Equal Opportunities</b>	The CPMR must comply with all European Equal Opportunities polices and obligations.
<b>Legal</b>	The CPMR must align to European law, rules and regulations, which the UK as a member state will need to comply.

#### For further information contact:

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