

<p>To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</p> <hr/> <p>From: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</p> <hr/> <p>Date: 4th September, 1998. Ref: WB/SP</p>	<p>Subject: Memorandum of Understanding between the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and C.O.S.L.A.</p>
--	---

### PROPOSED DECISION

To note the contents of the report.

### BACKGROUND

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (S.E.P.A.) was set up under the Environment Act, 1995 to ensure effective environmental protection for the inhabitants of Scotland and as the Committee are aware took over responsibility for several functions formerly administered by local authorities.

To perform their duties and functions for the optimum good of Scotland S.E.P.A. and C.O.S.L.A. have for some time recognised the need for close liaison and co-operation between them.

### REPORT

As a result of lengthy consideration and discussion both parties, on Thursday, 20th August, 1998, signed a Memorandum of Understanding a copy of which is appended to this report.

This Memorandum of Understanding commits both S.E.P.A. and C.O.S.L.A. to work together in mutual co-operation to achieve commonly held objectives and to promote mutual understanding and partnership working. Every six months, or more often if circumstances dictate, a Joint Liaison Group at Director/Head of Policy Development level will meet to consider issues of mutual interest. It is proposed that the first of these meetings be held later this year.

From the Council's point of view such meetings and liaison can only be beneficial and lead to greater co-operation between Environmental Services and S.E.P.A. personnel and a better understanding of each other's scope of responsibility and duties.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the Report.

*M'Kenzie L. Hutton*

Memorandum  
of  
Understanding

**COSLA**

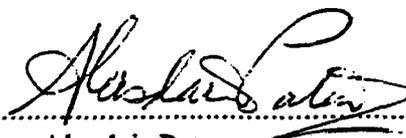
*Promoting Scottish Local Government*

Scottish Environment  
Protection Agency  
and  
Convention of Scottish  
Local Authorities



1. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) was set up under the Environment Act 1995 to provide effective environmental protection. COSLA provides national leadership for Scottish local government.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to establish a framework to support joint working and effective co-operation between SEPA and COSLA. It is based on the principle of mutual consultation.
3. COSLA members and SEPA share significant areas of common interest. COSLA members, through the exercise of their functions, provide the means through which many of SEPA's strategic policy objectives can be achieved.
4. Where closely related statutory requirements are placed on the separate organisations it is beneficial to ensure that the individual roles of SEPA and councils are clearly defined. It is therefore of key importance to both parties that the respective powers, duties, discretionary activities and strategic policies are clearly understood and exercised through mutual understanding and co-operation and that a partnership approach is fostered in those areas where this is appropriate.
5. This Memorandum of Understanding commits both SEPA and COSLA to work together in mutual co-operation to achieve commonly held objectives and to promote mutual understanding and partnership working.
6. To this end, a Joint Officer Liaison Group, chaired at Director/Head of Policy Development level, will meet at least every six months or more frequently if the need arises, to consider issues of mutual interest. The chair will be taken alternately by SEPA and COSLA. The Joint Liaison Group will:-
  - discuss relevant new policy initiatives under development within each organisation;
  - identify opportunities for joint working;
  - discuss any issues referred to the Group by either partner, and
  - discuss other matters of common interest.

Signed:

  
.....

Alasdair Paton  
Chief Executive SEPA

  
.....

Douglas Sinclair  
Chief Executive, COSLA