

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: MEMBERS' TRAINING: PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN ACTION
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 2 October 2006	Ref: JAF/IL	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The report advises of the organisation, in conjunction with the Association for Public Service Excellence, of a members' training event on proportional representation in action.

**2. Background**

2.1 Proportional representation is to be introduced to local government in Scotland as and from the 2007 elections. In Northern Ireland Councils have been elected by the STV system for a number of years and, following contact between members of the Council and members of local authorities in Northern Ireland at events organised by the Association for Public Service Excellence, there was identified the possibility of an event whereby councillors from Northern Ireland may share with members of the Council their experience of proportional representation and operating in a multi-member ward environment.

2.2 Those possibilities have been taken forward to the stage of firm proposals involving, also, input from local government officers and a training seminar has been arranged to take place within the Civic Centre, Motherwell, on 27 October 2006.

**3. Seminar Proposals**

3.1 The seminar will commence at 10.00 a.m. and will include presentations by two councillors from Northern Ireland on proportional representation in action from the perspective of the elected member together with a presentation on proportional representation from the officers' perspective. The event will, thereafter, conclude following lunch.

3.2 The event will coincide with the scheduled date for the meeting of the Association of Public Service Excellence Policy, Performance and Scrutiny Sub-Committee, and it has been agreed that, in order to participate in this event, the Sub-Committee will meet in North Lanarkshire on that day.

**4. Other Participation**

4.1 It is considered that this event will be extremely useful for members of the Council: it is, however, considered likely that the event will be of assistance also to others, and that up to 20 places could be made available to persons who are not members of the Council on payment of £25.00 per place.

**5. Recommendation**

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee

(a) note the arrangements made by the Director of Administration to organise a members' training seminar on proportional representation in action

and

(b) authorise the Director of Administration to allocate on an equitable basis, having regard to demand, additional places at that seminar at a cost of £25.00 per place.

  
**Director of Administration**

*Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.*