

APPROVAL FOR VISITS MADE BY MEMBERS

involving travel abroad / individual costs exceeding £500 / aggregate costs for more than one member of £1,000

Name of Member(s) travelling: Cllr K Bentley; Cllr D Madden;
Cllr L McKinlay and Cllr M Mackrory

Officers attending:
Gavin Jones

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Conference – 17- 19 November 2019, at Harbour Hotel in Guildford, Surrey

Conference Fee:

Cost per delegate:

Residential delegate rate (covering the full 2 days attendance at the conference) is £730 + V.A.T per person. The conference fee includes 2 nights accommodation and all meals.

Total cost of conference fees for 5 attendees: £3,650 plus VAT

Travel costs

Rail fares Chelmsford to Guildford (arriving around 16:00 on 17th and departing 15:00 on 19th) are £73.200pp (2 single tickets at £36.60 – National Rail website says “no return fares available”). Rail fares for all attendees is therefore £366.00.

The total cost for the entire conference (accommodation, conference fee and travel) is therefore approximately **£4,016 plus VAT**

Purpose of the visit and anticipated value to the County Council:

The County Councils Network (CCN) is a cross party special interest group of the Local Government Association which speaks, develops policy and shares good practice for the County group of local authorities, whether unitary or upper tier.

The CCN Annual Conference brings together members and officers over a 2 day period providing a unique opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing local government, to share experience and to find solutions to common issues

The Conference is an opportunity for senior ECC Councillors to meet with senior leaders at other county councils and with senior government ministers and featuring high profile speakers coupled with a range of sessions and workshop; debating all of the main issues facing county councils and county unitary authorities.

CCN Conference has attracted prominent Secretaries of State to speak and answer questions; as well as expert speakers, analysts, and commentators from the local government sector and beyond. This year the SoSs for Housing, Communities & Local Government, Health & Social Care and Education have been invited to speak.

The CCN team are currently working on an exciting agenda for the event, which will come at a crucial time with a new government and Prime Minister in place and many key local government agendas unresolved – such as the Fair Funding Review, devolution, adult social care green paper, children's services, school funding and increased business rate retention. At the same time, a post-Brexit landscape provides fresh advocacy opportunities - such as positioning counties as 'strategic authorities' and drivers of local and regional economic growth.

It will explore opportunities and challenges facing local government and will emphasise how important the delivery of county services are economically and socially to local communities, demonstrating to the Government, MPs, and national stakeholders that upper-tier authorities are the critical bodies for delivering devolution and service transformation in non-metropolitan areas.

.Approved by Katie Bray (for Paul Turner) 15 August 2019
Comments of the Monitoring Officer

Approved by Nicole Wood 14 August 2019
Comments of the Section 151 Officer