

Minutes of a Meeting of the Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and foreign travel by Officers held at County Hall, Chelmsford, at 11.00am on 19 February 2013

Present:

Councillors

David Finch
Michael Lager
Mike Mackrory
Peter Martin (Chairman)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Bill Dick.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the deletion of 'Peter Martin' and its replacement by 'Michael Lager' in minute 1 (Apologies for absence).

Arising from consideration of minute 5 (Urgent Business - Approval for a visit to be undertaken by an Officer), the Committee agreed that the Director of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and all SELEP staff who were also employees of Essex County Council should be added to the list of those exempt from the requirement to seek the Committee's approval to undertake foreign travel. Members also requested the Assistant Director – Corporate Law to submit a report to a future meeting identifying any further, similar bodies and seeking approval to exemption for their staff.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Director of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and all SELEP staff who are also Essex County Council employees be exempted from the requirement to seek the Committee's approval to undertake foreign travel.
- 2) The a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee identifying any further, similar bodes and seeking approval to exemption for their staff.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

4. Approval for a visit to be undertaken by Members and Officers

The Committee considered report FTC/02/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for a group of thirteen Members and Officers to attend the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards Evening Presentation and Dinner on 13 March 2013 at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London. The Council had been nominated for five LGC Awards.

The application had been endorsed by the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer.

In considering the application, the Committee was advised that as the Chief Executive had been one of the award judges, the cost of her attendance would be met by the LGC. This, coupled with 'sponsorship income' worth £2520 received from PriceWaterhouseCoopers and MITIE, meant that the cost to the Council of attending the event would be £1313.50 including travel.

In response to concerns regarding the number of proposed attendees the rationale in selecting each attendee was explained. The Executive Manager in attendance (Tomi Platts) advised that this information had been omitted from the report in error and she undertook to supply it following the meeting. In the light of this, the Committee accepted that the number of attendees was proportionate to the number of awards and also agreed that an invitation should be extended to the Leader of the Opposition, as had occurred in the past.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Members and Officers, including the Leader of the Opposition, at the LGC Awards Evening Presentation and Dinner on 13 March 2013 be agreed.

5. Dates of Future Meetings

The Committee considered report FTC/03/13 by the Governance Team Manager seeking its agreement to dates of future meetings.

Resolved:

That future meetings of the Committee be held on the following dates, at 10.30am or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to be held on the same day, whichever is the later:

2013

19 March

16 July

19 November

21 May

10 September

17 December

18 June

1 October

2014

21 January

The meeting closed at 11:15am.

Chairman
27 March 2013