

Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	FTC/04/15
Date: 19 May 2015	
Approval for Member Attendance at the LGA Annual Conference 2015	
Report by: Committee Officer	
Enquiries to: Jennifer Reid, 03330 131332	

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1** To consider an application (attached as an appendix to this report) for five members and two officers to attend the Local Government Association Annual Conference in Harrogate from 30 June – 2 July 2015.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1** That the attendance of five members and two officers at the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference in Harrogate from 30 June – 2 July 2015, at an total estimated cost of £6500, be approved/not approved.

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: 5 members and 1 officers

Members will be three Cabinet Members and a member of the Liberal Democrats and Labour Groups

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

LGA Annual Conference 30 June – 2 July 2015 in Harrogate

Estimated cost of the visit: £6,500

Rationale for the estimated cost:

* Please note you will need to demonstrate that in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme three quotes have been obtained before booking foreign hotels.

Delegate costs

£495 per person x 6 delegates = £2970 + V.A.T.

Travel

Train costs for super off-peak tickets as follows:

Chelmsford – Harrogate £116.30 per person

Colchester – Harrogate £128.16 per person

London – Harrogate £105.50 per person

Accommodation costs:

Accommodation has been booked for 4 Members and 1 officer at Ascot House Hotel, Harrogate at a cost of £2070 + V.A.T. The Labour delegate normally arranges their own accommodation and recharges half the cost to ECC. We should therefore add another £175 to cover this making a total of £2,245

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

The Local Government Association (LGA) is a politically-led, cross-party organisation which works on behalf of councils across England and Wales to ensure that local government has a strong and credible voice with national government. The LGAs membership also includes fire, national parks, passenger transport and police authorities.

The LGA Annual Conference is one of the largest events in the local government calendar, and regularly attracts over 1,100 delegates. The conference is attended by Council Leaders and Chief Executives, senior officers, lead members and policy

makers across local government, and it also attracts high numbers from LGA partner organisations in the wider public sector, and the private and voluntary sectors.

This focus of this year's conference also aligns with two of ECC's most important priorities – devolution and health and social care integration – making attendance of the conference more important than ever. Member and officer attendance will ensure that our voice is represented, that we are influencing and leading the agenda, making sure we are not left behind, and that we are gaining insights into key developments elsewhere across the country.

In addition, with a growing emphasis on partnership working at Essex County Council, the LGA Annual Conference is a prime opportunity to discuss best practice and share innovation from delegates up and down the country as well as establishing key relationships and alliances. In addition, delegates will have the opportunity to share experiences, hear high-profile speakers, debate issues of importance, participate in these debates and network with colleagues, peers and partners.

Comments of the Chief Executive

This is a key event and an appropriate commitment to make.

Joanna Killian
6th May 2015

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

'Approved - the costs are in line with ECC policies and the subject of the conference aligns with ECC business'

Margaret Lee
6th May 2015