

Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers

10:30	Tuesday, 21 October 2014	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex
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Please note: This Committee will commence at the time shown above, or on the rise of the Cabinet meeting to be held that morning, whichever is the later.

Quorum: 3

Membership:

M Danvers
D Finch
M Mackrory
D Madden
S Walsh

For information about the meeting please ask for:

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Essex County Council

Essex County Council and Committees Information

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Part 1

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

		Pages
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Appointment of Vice-Chairman To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15.	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2014	5 - 10
4	Declarations of Interest To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members	
5	Member Attendance at the ADEPT Conference	11 - 14
6	Member Attendance at Opening Event for Fort Duffel and Floodcom Final Conference - feedback	15 - 16
7	Date of Next Meeting To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 November 2014 at 10.30am or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to held that morning, whichever is the later	
8	Urgent Business To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.	

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9 Urgent Exempt Business

To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

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 10:45am on 23 September 2014

Present:

Councillor

Anne	Brown	(Chairman, and substitute for Councillor David Finch)
Michael	Danvers	
Theresa	Higgins	
Roger	Hirst	(substitute for Councillor Dick Madden)
Mike	Mackrory	
Andy	Wood	(substitute for Councillor Simon Walsh)

Councillors Sue Lissimore and Theresa Higgins were also in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Finch, Dick Madden and Simon Walsh, for whom, respectively, Councillors Anne Brown, Roger Hirst and Andy Wood substituted.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Members agreed to defer this item to the next.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mackrory declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 (Member Attendance at the County Councils Network Annual Conference) in that he was one of the members due to represent the Council at the Conference (minute 5 below refers).

5. Member Attendance at the County Councils Network (CNN) Annual Conference

Councillor Mackrory declared a personal interest in this item (minute 4 above refers).

The Committee considered report FTC/08/14 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for Members to attend the CCN Conference in Marlow, Buckinghamshire from 16-18 November 2014 at an estimated total cost of £4,606.30.

In considering the application, Members noted the value to the Council of attendance at the Conference, particularly in terms of the opportunity to meet with senior leaders at other county councils and with senior government ministers.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Councillors David Finch, Leader of the Council, Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader, Dick Madden, Cabinet Member for Families and Children, Mike Mackrory, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, and Julie Young, Leader of the Labour Group at the CNN Conference in Marlow, Buckinghamshire from 16-18 November 2014 at an estimated total cost of £4,606.30 be approved.

6. Officer Attendance at the Material Advanced Recovery Sustainable Systems (MARSS) First Public Workshop, Germany

The Committee considered report FTC/09/14 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for Sonia Davidson-Grant (currently acting Interim Executive Director for Place Commissioning) to attend the MARSS First Public Workshop to be held at Regent GMBH, Mertesdore, Germany on 6 October 2014 at an estimated cost of £450.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Higgins, Members noted that although Sonia Davidson-Grant was expected to attend the Workshop, an alternative nominee would be sought if required.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Sonia Davidson-Grant (acting Interim Executive Director for Place Commissioning), or alternative nominee, at the MARSS First Public Workshop to be held at Regent GMBH, Mertesdore, Germany on 6 October 2014 be approved.

Secretary's Note: Sonia Davidson-Grant has been appointed on a permanent basis to the position of Executive Director for Place Commissioning and her attendance at the Workshop has therefore been confirmed.

7. Officer Attendance at the Middle East Smart Gov Summit, Dubai

The Committee considered report FTC/10/14 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for David Wilde (Director for Information Services) to attend and speak at the Middle East Smart Gov Summit in Dubai from 9-10 December 2014. The costs of travel and accommodation would be met by the organisers of the event, Fleming Gulf, who had issued the personal invitation to Mr Wilde to speak.

The Committee was informed that, should personal circumstances prevent Mr Wilde from attending the Summit, arrangements would be made to send a substitute.

Resolved:

That the attendance of David Wilde, Director for Information Services, or his substitute, at the Middle East Smart Gov Summit in Dubai at no cost to the Council be approved.

8. Report of Action Taken Since Last Meeting – Member Visit to Finland

The Committee received report FTC/11/14 which confirmed the action taken since the last meeting regarding a proposed visit to Finland by the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning.

In considering the report, the Committee was informed that a majority of Members had expressed their support for the application upon being consulted by email.

Resolved:

That the decision taken since the last meeting of the Committee to approve a visit to Finland by Councillor Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, from 1-3 October 2014 at a total cost of £549 (plus £20 Members meal allowance) be noted.

9. Member and Officer Attendance at the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference

The Committee considered report FTC/12/14 providing feedback from Members and Officers following their attendance at the LGA Annual Conference in July, as requested by the Committee when it approved the application in February 2014.

Councillor Theresa Higgins provided her feedback at the meeting, and this is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

In response to a question from Councillor Hirst regarding the actual costs being more than estimated, Councillor Higgins commented that some Members had been accommodated in hotels at some distance from the Conference venue and this had led to a greater use of taxis than would usually be expected..

Resolved:

- (1) That the report, including the feedback provided at the meeting by Councillor Theresa Higgins and attached to these minutes as an appendix, be noted.

- (2) That for the future, efforts be made to book hotel accommodation closer to Conference venues.
- (3) That the Leader of the Council be asked to provide his feedback to the next meeting of the Committee.

10. Essex Sporting Exchange Visit to Nanjing Youth Olympics – Feedback

The Committee noted report FTC/13/14 following Officer attendance at the Essex Sporting Exchange visit to China for the Nanjing Youth Olympics in August.

Brian Shaw, Strategic Lead, Education & Skills, Active Essex, was in attendance to respond to Members' questions. He highlighted his personal learning experiences from the visit, and indicated that Jiangsu have now requested an extension of the sporting and cultural exchange with Essex to 2017.

Members thanked Mr Shaw for his attendance and noted his feedback report.

11. East of England Inward Investment Mission to China – Feedback

The Committee noted report FTC/14/14 providing feedback from the East of England Inward Investment Mission to China, as requested by the Committee at its meeting on 25 February 2014 when it approved Councillor Sue Lissimore's application to participate.

Councillor Sue Lissimore and Peter Manning, Head of International Trade, ECC, were in attendance to respond to Members' questions.

Mr Manning advised that the Essex-Jiangsu link helps Essex attract new inward investment and Essex businesses to find new export markets. The visit had focused on attracting inward investment in the life sciences sector and on developing the relationship between Essex and Jiangsu.

The Committee noted the full itinerary which showed that the visit maximised contact with target businesses and intermediary organisations. The Life Science Conference had been very successful and attracted approximately 170 people from Jiangsu life science businesses, industry parks, research parks and life science industry associations, at no marketing cost to ECC. Since the visit, five companies had visited the East of England region and were interested in locating to Essex, with a further two company visits planned for later in the year.

Councillor Sue Lissimore thanked Peter Manning and his team for organising the visit which ran smoothly and was well attended.

Members thanked Councillor Lissimore and Mr Manning for their attendance and noted the report.

Resolved:

That a copy of the report be circulated to all Members of the Cabinet for information.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 21 October 2014 at 10:30 or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to be held that same morning, whichever was the later.

The meeting closed at 11:15.

Chairman
21 October 2014

Appendix**Feedback from Councillor Theresa Higgins following her attendance at the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference (minute 9 above refers)**

1. I find the LGA Conference useful for networking and getting information. It is one of the few opportunities to discuss ideas with other councillors.
2. This time, due to date of the full Council meeting, I only attended for one day but made the best use of my time by going to a couple of relevant sessions and the group meetings.
3. I enjoyed listening to different projects in the innovation zone.
4. The only negative I have is that many of the examples given are for unitary or metropolitan councils and not for the two-tier system.

Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	FTC/15/14
Date: 21 October 2014	
Approval for Member Attendance at the ADEPT Conference	
Report by: Committee Services Manager	
Enquiries to: Judith Dignum, 01245 430044, ext 20044	

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider an application (to be circulated in advance of the meeting) for Councillor Eddie Johnson, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Schemes Delivery, to attend the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) Conference in Manchester, from 6 - 7 November 2014.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That approval be given / not given for Councillor Eddie Johnson, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Schemes Delivery, to attend the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) Conference in Manchester from 6 – 7 November 2014.

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 Eddie Johnson
Details of the visit (incl. dates):	6 & 7 November 2014 ADEPT Conference, Manchester Airport
Estimated cost of the visit:	£626 (based on option B plus driving) £515 (based on option B plus train)
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.	
<p>To book accommodation separately at the Radisson Blue hotel (bed and breakfast) would be approximately £193 per night plus subsistence (£20 for dinner) and conference entry costs, totally approximately £726 excluding travel.</p> <p>There are four conference packages offered by ADEPT that available when booking the conference:</p> <p>Please tick the appropriate box (All sessions include lunch):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conference Package A Member Rate £350 + VAT, Non-Member Rate £495 + VAT Includes delegate attendance at both days of the conference plus dinner, bed & breakfast on Thursday night</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference Package B Member Rate £450 + VAT, Non-Member Rate £595 + VAT ✗ Includes delegate attendance at both days of the conference, bed & breakfast on Wednesday night and dinner, bed & breakfast on Thursday night</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conference Package C Member Rate £250 + VAT, Non-Member Rate £395 + VAT Includes delegate attendance at both days of the conference (no accommodation)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conference Package D Member Rate £150 + VAT, Non-Member Rate £295 + VAT Includes delegate attendance at one day of the conference (no accommodation) (Thursday/Friday* delete as appropriate)</p> <p>Options A and B include accommodation, breakfast and dinner as well as entrance fees and are therefore a more cost effective option. We are recommending Option B</p> <p>If Cllr Johnson chose to travel by car the mileage is approximately 196 miles each way and so the fuel claim would be £176.</p> <p>If he chose to take the train a return could be £65, however this is dependent on booking in advance and travelling at very specific times.</p>	
Purpose of the visit and anticipated value to the County Council:	
<p>Strategic Place Directors across the country are helping their Authorities to successfully deliver economic growth and local jobs through initiatives that transform their localities.</p> <p>Key Place based services, such as Planning, Public Transport, Economic Development, Environment, Property, Highways and Housing, managed in a variety of combinations, are</p>	

delivering projects that effectively unlock or protect Business Growth in a variety of ways.

This conference will give members, politicians, partners and stakeholders the opportunity to learn from real examples of such success. Also to hear more about the opportunities that exist and how challenges might be overcome, particularly in the context of the LEP and growth deal landscape. In looking forward to an election year the conference will provide the opportunity to hear and debate ADEPTs ideas for policy development by the next Government to aid this delivery agenda.

Comments of the Chief Executive

Agreed



Comments of the Section 151 Officer

Agreed

Margaret Lee

Report to Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	FTC/16/14
Date of meeting: 21 October 2014	
Member Attendance at Opening Event for Fort Duffel and Floodcom Final Conference - Feedback	
Report by: Committee Services Manager	
Enquiries to: Judith Dignum Telephone:033301 34579 / email: Judith.dignum@essex.gov.uk	

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1-1 To provide feedback from Cllr John Jowers regarding his attendance at the Opening Event for Fort Duffel (April 2014) and the Floodcom Final Conference (September 2014), as requested at previous meetings of the Committee.

2 Recommendation

- 2-1 That the report be noted.

3 Background

- 3-1 On 22 April, the Committee gave approval for Councillor John Jowers (at that time Cabinet Member for Libraries, Communities and Planning) to attend the following events:
- Opening event for Fort Duffel, near Antwerp, (part of the EU Walls and Gardens Project) from 29 – 30 April 2014
 - Floodcom Final Conference, Antwerp, from 24 -25 September 2014
- 3-2 As a condition of these approvals, the Committee requested that Councillor Jowers provide feedback from both events to a future meeting. Councillor Jowers will be in attendance at this meeting to provide feedback and respond to Members' questions.

