

Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and foreign travel by Officers

10:15*	Tuesday, 17 May 2016	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:

Jennifer Reid, Committee Officer

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Email: jennifer.reid@essex.gov.uk



Essex County Council

Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

Most meetings are held at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. A map and directions to County Hall can be found on the Council's [website](#).

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Please note that an audio recording may be made of the meeting – at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded.

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	Minutes of the Last Meeting	5 - 6
3	Declarations of Interest To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct	
4	Approval for Member Attendance at the LGA Annual Conference 2016	7 - 10
5	Date of Next Meeting To note that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 June 2016 at 10.15am or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to held that morning, whichever is the later	
6	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.

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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 10.45 am on Tuesday 22 March 2016

Present:

Councillor

David	Finch	Chairman
Michael	Danvers	
Mike	Mackrory	
Dick	Madden	
Simon	Walsh	

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Madden declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 (Approval for Officer travel to Barcelona) as Cabinet Member for Children and Adults and informed Members he would not partake in the discussion or vote on that item (minute 4 below refers).

4. Approval for Officer travel to Barcelona

The Committee considered report FTC/03/16 by the Secretary to the Committee, which sought approval for three officers to travel to Spain, to visit a Council in Barcelona from 2-3 April 2016 at an estimated total cost of £744.

Alex Laidler, Director for Local Delivery West, Adult Operations, was present at the meeting to answer Members' questions.

The purpose of the visit was to visit a council in Barcelona which had implemented assistive technology that Essex County Council is looking to adopt as part of the delivery of 2021.

In response to questions, officers confirmed the decision was taken to visit Barcelona rather than other councils in the UK as the technology model had been fully implemented in Spain, offering officers the opportunity to talk to stakeholders and users of the technology rather than just the provider. The UK councils mentioned in the report were still in the planning stages of using the technology. Members commented that a cost would still be involved in travelling to UK Councils.

The Director for Local Delivery West explained how the work profile of each of the officers aligned with the purpose of the visit. Members commented that they would have liked more detailed information regarding the anticipated outcomes and individual questioning that would take place. Members requested that following the visit a full report of activity for all three officers including evidence of learning and its application be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

1. That foreign travel by three officers to Spain, to visit a Council in Barcelona from 2-3 April 2016 at an estimated total cost of £744 be approved.
2. That a detailed report on the visit be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

5. Member Foreign Travel to Monchy-Le Preux, France

The Committee considered report FTC/04/16 by the Secretary to the Committee asking Members to note the self-funded foreign travel to Monchy-Le Preux, France by, Cllr John Aldridge, on 21 May 2016.

Resolved

That foreign travel by Cllr John Aldridge to the Essex Regiment/Essex Yeomanry Memorial in Monchy-Le Preux, France, on 21 May 2016, at no cost to Essex County Council, be noted.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 19 April 2016 at 10.15 or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to be held that same morning, whichever was the later.

The meeting closed at 10.55

Chairman:
Date:

Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	FTC/05/16
Date: 17 May 2016	
Approval for Member Attendance at the LGA Annual Conference 2016	
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 one officer to attend the Local Government Association Annual Conference 5-7 July 2016 in Bournemouth.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1** That the attendance of five members and one officer at the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference 5-7 July 2016 in Bournemouth, at an total estimated cost of £5873.10, 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 officer

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

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

LGA Annual Conference 5-7 July 2016 in Bournemouth

Estimated cost of the visit: £5,873.10

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 + £594 V.A.T = £3,564

Travel

Train costs for super off-peak tickets as follows:

Chelmsford – Bournemouth per person £81.90 x 2 = £163.80

Colchester – Bournemouth per person £84.90 x 3 = £254.70

Swindon – Bournemouth £65.60 per person x 1 = £65.60

Total travel cost travelling via train = £484.10 approx

Accommodation costs:

Accommodation has been booked for 4 Members and 1 officer at the Hilton Bournemouth at a cost of £1,650 inc VAT (£110 per person per night x 3 nights). The Labour delegate normally arranges their own accommodation and recharges half the cost to ECC. We should therefore add another £175 approx to cover this making a total of £1,825 approx.

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 Executive Director for Corporate and Customer Services (and S151 Officer):

Approved: The conference supports the work and aims of Essex County Council, and the costs indicated are in line with the approved relevant policies.

Margaret Lee

Date: ____5th April 2016_____

Comments of the Deputy Monitoring Officer:

Approved: Appropriate attendance at the LGA conference is beneficial to the Council.

Paul Turner

Signature: ____Paul Turner_____

Date: ____13 April 2016_____

