

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: