

Report to Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	FTC/17/14
Date of meeting: 16 December 2014	
Report of action taken since last meeting – Attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference	
Report by: Committee Services Manager	
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1. Purpose of the Report

To confirm action taken since the Committee's last meeting regarding Member and Officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester between 29 and 31 October.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the arrangements for officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester from 29 - 31 October be noted.
- 2.2 That the agreement between the Leader of the Council and the Executive Director, People Commissioning for combined Member and Officer attendance at the Conference in future years to be limited to a maximum of six be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1 Members may recall that, towards the end of October they were consulted by email on an application for a number of Members and Officers to attend the National Children and Adult Services Conference, due to take place in Manchester between 29 and 31 October.
- 3.2 Subsequently, it came to light that Member attendance at the Conference had already been considered by the Committee at its meeting on 24 June, when approval had been given for the attendance of Councillors D Madden, A Brown, R Gadsby and A Naylor.
- 3.3 Although the Committee's approval is not required with regard to officer attendance, this would normally have been reported as part of the Members' application, to allow the Committee to have the full picture in terms of Council

representation at the event. Unfortunately this had been overlooked on this occasion.

- 3.4 Although in this circumstance, there was no need for any further approval by the Committee, some concern was expressed about the level of proposed officer attendance. In response, Dave Hill, Executive Director, People Commissioning, advised that there were particular circumstances this year, in that ECC had bid for and had been accepted to deliver, a major presentation about the improvement journey and Ofsted outcome in the Children's service. This had led to the need for additional officer attendance. It was noted that three of the officers concerned would attend for the day only, thereby incurring no hotel accommodation costs.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that, although it is important for ECC to have a presence at this key policy event, for future years, the Leader of the Council has agreed with Dave Hill that attendance will be limited to a combined total of no more than six officers and members. This position will be reflected in next year's application to the Committee.
- 3.6 In addition, the application form to the Committee is also being updated to clarify the need for officer attendance details to be included when approval for Member attendance is sought.
- 3.7 A report providing feedback following attendance at the Conference appears as the next item of business on this agenda.