

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 11.10am on 24 June 2014

Present:

Councillors

David	Finch	(Chairman)
Mike	Mackrory	
Joe	Pike	(substitute for Councillor Dick Madden)
Andy	Wood	(substitute for Councillor Simon Walsh)
Julie	Young	(substitute for Councillor Michael Danvers)

Councillor Dick Madden, Cabinet Member for Families and Children, was also present

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Danvers and Simon Walsh, for whom Councillors Julie Young and Andy Wood substituted respectively. Councillor Joe Pike was attending on behalf of Councillor Dick Madden to avoid a conflict of interest, as the Committee was due to consider an application concerning Councillor Madden (minute 2 below refers).

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Member Attendance at the National Children and Adults Conference

Councillor Dick Madden, Cabinet Member for Families and Children, was present during this item to respond to Members' questions.

The Committee considered report FTC/05/14 by the Committee Services Manager which sought approval for Councillors Dick Madden (Cabinet Member for Families and Children) and Ricki Gadsby (Deputy to the Cabinet Member for Families and Children) to attend the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester from 29 – 31 October 2014. The estimated cost of attendance would be £1,233 per person.

It was noted that travel would be by private car on this occasion as, taking account of car sharing, this would be the most economic means of transport.

Responding to Members' questions, Councillor Madden commented on the value of attending the Conference, particularly in terms of knowledge-acquisition and the opportunity to liaise with Government ministers. He would be pleased to provide a feedback report to the Committee after the event. Councillor Madden also advised that accommodation had been booked in a hotel near to the conference venue.

The Committee noted that the Cabinet Members for Adults Social Care and Public Health and Wellbeing may also benefit from attending the Conference. Given that the Committee accepted the value of ECC representation, Members agreed to give approval in principle for attendance by these two additional Cabinet Members should they so wish.

Resolved:

- 1) That the attendance of Councillors Dick Madden and Ricki Gadsby at the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester from 29 – 31 October 2014 be approved, at an estimated cost to the Council of £1,233 per person.
- 2) That approval be given in principle for the Cabinet Members for Adults Social Care and Public Health and Wellbeing to attend the same conference should they so wish.
- 3) That a report feeding back the learning points from the Conference, and how these will be applied in ECC, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee and also brought to the attention of the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.

(Note of Secretary to the Committee: the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing subsequently confirmed her attendance at the Conference.)

3. East of England Inward Investment to China - Feedback

Members agreed to defer consideration of this report (FTC/06/14) until the next meeting of the Committee on 22 July 2014 as the Presenting Officer had been called away urgently.

4. Member Attendance at Opening Event for Fort Duffel – report of action taken since last meeting

The Committee received report FTC/07/14 by the Committee Services Manager which provided an update on action taken since the last meeting regarding Member attendance at the opening event for Fort Duffel near Antwerp on 29/30 April. Members noted that Councillor John Jowers had attended the event, and requested that he submit a feedback report to a future meeting.

Resolved:

That Councillor John Jowers submit a feedback report to a future meeting of the Committee concerning his attendance at the opening event for Fort Duffel on 29/30 April 2014.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 22 July 2014 at 10.30am or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to be held that same morning, whichever was the later.

6. Urgent Business

The Chairman agreed to consideration of the following item of urgent business on the grounds that a decision was required before the next meeting of the Committee on 22 July.

Approval for Officer Attendance at the Essex Sporting Exchange Visit to Nanjing Youth Olympics (China)

Brian Shaw, Strategic Lead, Education and Skills, was present during consideration of this item to respond to the Committee's questions.

The Committee considered report FTC/08/14 by the Committee Services Manager regarding an application for Brian Shaw, Strategic Lead, Education and Skills, to lead the Essex Sporting Exchange visit to China for the Nanjing Youth Olympics. The visit was due to take place from 14 – 24 August 2014 and the cost to the Council of Mr Shaw's attendance would be £850.

Responding to Members' questions, Mr Shaw outlined the background to the Council's involvement with the Nanjing Youth Olympics, a reciprocal arrangement with Nanjing which had begun in 2011 and was due to end this year. He also described the benefits which had accrued from the Council's participation.

Resolved:

- 1) That approval be given for Brian Shaw (Strategic Lead, Education and Skills) to lead the Essex Sporting Exchange visit to China for the Nanging Youth Olympics from 14 – 24 August 2014 at a cost to the Council of £850.
- 2) That a report detailing the specific learning experiences from the visit, and how the impact of these on education processes in Essex be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 23 September 2014.

The meeting closed at 11.28am

Chairman
22 July 2014