

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 David Finch; Cllr John Jowers; Cllr Kevin Bentley; Cllr Julie Young

Joanna Killian

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Conference – 17 - 19 November 2013, at Crown Plaza Hotel, Chester

Estimated cost of the visit: £2,881.20

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.

The CCN provides accommodation for the conference.

The conference fee per delegate is £348 (incl VAT). This includes accommodation for the Monday 18th November and all meals.

There is an additional charge of £138 (incl VAT) per delegate for accommodation on the Sunday 17th November. This includes the cost of a meal.

Return off peak rail fares are currently £451.20. (3 x £96.20 off peak return Colchester-Chester; 1 x £85.30 off peak return Chelmsford-Chester and 1 x £77.30 off peak return London-Chester).

The total cost for the entire conference (accommodation, conference fee and travel) is therefore £2,881.20

Purpose of the visit and anticipated value to the County Council:

The County Councils Network (CCN) is a cross party special interest group of the Local Government Association which speaks, develops policy and shares good practice for the County group of local authorities, whether unitary or upper tier.

The CCN Annual Conference brings together members and officers over a 2 day period providing a unique opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing local

government, to share experience and to find solutions to common issues.

The Conference is an opportunity for senior ECC Councillors to meet with senior leaders at other county councils and with senior government ministers.

Valuable networking opportunity with both peers across local government and Whitehall.

Rob Cherrill 2/9/13

Comments of the Deputy Chief Executive

Approved. The conference covers issues which are a core part of the Council's business.

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

Margaret Lee

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