

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 Democrats and Labour Groups and the Chief Executive

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

LGA Annual Conference 4-6 July 2016 in Birmingham

Estimated cost of the visit: £5,500.92 plus VAT. Approximate additional cost for travel will be £1,209.

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

£545 per person x 6 delegates = £3,270 plus VAT

Travel

Train costs as follows:

Chelmsford – Birmingham per person £217 x 4 = £868

Harwich – Birmingham per person £252 x 1 = £252

Swindon – Birmingham £89 per person x 1 = £89

Total travel cost travelling via train = £1209

Accommodation costs:

Accommodation has been booked at the Crown Plaza Birmingham City Centre for 3 nights at £123.94 plus VAT per person per night. Total cost for accommodation is £2230.92 plus VAT

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:

Margaret Lee

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Comments of the Section 151 Officer:

Paul Turner

Signature: _____

Date: _____