

APPROVAL FOR AD HOC FOREIGN VISITS MADE BY OFFICERS

Name of Officer(s) travelling:

Lucy Shepherd

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

Travel to Paris for a major international conference looking at local government and surface water flooding (agenda attached). The event will be held on Wednesday, 23 October at the Main City Hall in Central Paris.

The Local Government Flood Forum have offered 10 free return tickets on Eurostar for their members, of which Essex CC have secured two (Lucy Shepherd and Rosanna Briggs). The conference itself is also free for us to attend, so the only costs are for accommodation on Tues 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October and other expenses for subsistence and onward journeys to/from the Eurostar.

Estimated cost of the visit: Approx £250
(Lucy Shepherd only).

Rationale for the estimated cost:

Travel: Return travel to London St Pancras for Eurostar (return travel from London-Paris is free)

Accommodation: Approx £100 per night in Paris x 2 nights = £200

Subsistence: Approx £10 for lunch on 22nd and 24th October = £20. Approx £30 for dinner on 23rd October. All other meals provided

* Please note you will need to demonstrate that in accordance with the Officers' Expenses Scheme three quotes have been obtained before booking foreign hotels.

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

The LGFF have been involved in an exciting project to discover the potential of radar to predict surface water flooding. The obvious consequence of this project's success is the adequate response of local authorities if flooding is indeed predictable. The conference will briefly explain the science behind the predictions and then look at the roles of local authorities. ECC have surface water flooding responsibilities as the Lead Local Flood Authority and therefore have a key role to play in this. This is also a subject area we are currently working very closely with ECPEM and Essex Fire and Rescue on, and wish to develop in partnership.

Endorsed by:

Executive Director / Chief Executive / Monitoring Officer and Executive Director for Finance*

Bob Cherrill . 24/9/13

Comments of the Endorser

Approved - *PC* 26/9/13

Comments of the Chief Executive

Approved - Key issue in Essex at the moment and conference will provide useful insight into how other authorities are responding .

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

Approved - conference relates to core ECC business
Maguire Lee

** Staff below Executive Director must be endorsed by the Executive Director, Executive Directors endorsed by Chief Executive, Chief Executive endorsed by Monitoring Officer and Executive Director for Finance*



Wednesday 23rd October 2013
Local Authorities Meeting at the Main Paris City Hall
Hotel de Ville, 1 place de l'Hôtel de ville, 75004 PARIS. France

9:00	Welcome coffee/tea
9:20	Welcome talk
9:30 - 10:15	RainGain: goals and structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short recapitulation: RainGain as a response to expectations • Update from project meetings.
10:15 - 12:45 (break at 11:00 - 11:15)	Local water management : examples of local authorities expectations and/or examples on water Information uses A series of very short talks and a general discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of emergency responses: from very extreme heavy rainfalls to more local urban floods • Improvement of real time water management • Improvement of city resilience
12:45 - 13:45	Buffet lunch
13:45 - 15:15	Involvement of stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy makers, Engineers, concerned associations and citizens • Two RainGain platforms: INET-RADX for education and training of professional and GPY-RADX to inform the general public and youth. What are the gaps to be filled through education and information? • Examples of popularization (Festival de l'Oh, Thames Festival) • RainGain as a challenge to the fragmentation of services
15:15 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 16:30	Future plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data dissemination • Regulation and legal issues: differences between countries, expected insurance coverage changes, trials • Budget issues and business model(s)
16:30 - 17:00	General conclusions

