

## 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 Kevin Bentley  
Cllr Kay Twitchen

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

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Estimated cost of the visit:

£ £219.80 per person

TOTAL COST TO ECC: £439.60

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.

### **Accommodation:**

3 quotes:

NH Hotel du Grand Sablon - £97

Thon Hotel - £138

Stanhope Hotel - £157

### **Travel:**

Colchester – St Pancras International. Leaving 2<sup>nd</sup> June (early morning, tbc) £31.30 each and returning on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (evening, tbc) £19.50

St Pancras – Brussels

2<sup>nd</sup> June - £36 per person

3<sup>rd</sup> June return - £36 per person

### **Reason for visit:**

Cllr Bentley and Cllr Twitchen are to attend the Brussels Office of the East of England European Partnership on 2/3 June.

Essex County Council are a member of the East of England European Partnership, which is setup to assist partner organisations to improve their access to EU Funding. They do this by

- Finding a path of opportunity for partners through the EU institutions and legislation;
- Providing intelligence and advance warning of EU policy and funding developments;
- Raising the profile of individual partners in particular and the East of England in general with key policy makers in the EU and organisations across the EU;
- Creating links through networking and partner searches with other European regions in support of transnational project development.

ECC has been an active participant in previous European Funding programmes securing £12.8m in the last programme which ran from 2007 – 2013. This visit will provide an opportunity for Essex County Council to nurture and develop its network, to maximise the benefits of membership of the East of England European partnership and ensure that ECC priorities are met, enhancing opportunities to leverage future European funding into the County.

*The travel is in line with ECC policies, and the purpose of the visit*

*is in line with ECC business*

*Margaret Lee*

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

*In line with ECC business priorities*

Comments of the Chief Executive

