

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 Kevin Bentley; Cllr Dick Madden; Cllr M Mackrory and Cllr J Young

Officers attending:
Joanna Killian, Richard Puleston and Gareth Nicholson

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Conference – 16 - 18 November 2013, at Crown Plaza Hotel, Marlow

Conference Fee:

Total cost of conference fees: £4,160

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 £445. This includes accommodation for the Monday 17th November and all meals.

There is an additional charge of £150 per delegate for accommodation on the Sunday 16th November. This includes the cost of a meal.

Two of the officers Richard Puleston and Gareth Nicholson will be attending as Day Delegates and there is no charge for accommodation.

Travel costs

Return off peak rail fares are approximately £446.30

4 x £45 off peak return Chelmsford-Marlow (Cllrs Finch, Bentley, Madden & Mackrory)

1 x £27.20 off peak return London-Marlow (Joanna Killian)

1 x £43.90 off peak return Colchester-Marlow (Cllr Young)

2 x £27.20 day returns Stratford-Marlow (Gareth Nicholson)
2 x £43.20 day returns Maldon-Marlow (Richard Puleston)

The total cost for the entire conference (accommodation, conference fee and travel) is therefore approximately £4,606.30

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.

Comments of the Chief Executive

APPROVED - the CCN supports core ECC business. All costs quoted are in line with approved policies

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

Margaret Lee

Margaret Lee 17/9/14
H. Brown 18.9.14