

Minutes of a Meeting of the Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and foreign travel by Officers held at County Hall, Chelmsford, at 15.00pm on 28 January 2013

Present:

Councillors

David Finch
Mike Mackrory
Peter Martin (Chairman)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bill Dick and Peter Martin.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Peter Martin declared a personal interest as he is a member of the LEP Board.

4. Approval for a visit to be undertaken by an Officer

The Committee considered report FTC/01/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for an Officer to attend a Floodaware Conference, Middelburg, Netherlands from 30 January to 1 February 2013.

Approval was being sought for a Flood Defence Officer to accompany two Interreg officers who already have an exemption from this process.

The Committee were aware of the Council's new responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, however the Committee were not totally convinced that a third officer needed to attend. Daniel Chiswell, Interreg officer was asked for further clarification as to the usefulness of the visit and the potential outcomes to be gained.

Together with additional information about the nature of the visit the Committee also received updated travel costs as follows:

Travel	274
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Accommodation	162
Subsistence	40
Total	476

The application had been endorsed by the Section 151 Officer and the Chief Executive.

Councillor David Finch requested that feedback from this visit must be included in the Annual Report of this Committee.

Resolved:

That Lucy Shepherd, Flood Defence Officer attend the Floodaware Conference, Middelburg, Netherlands from 30 January to 1 February 2013, be approved.

The Committee asked that in future more detail be included in the reports submitted for approval.

5. Urgent Business - Approval for a visit to be undertaken by an Officer

The Chairman asked, and the Committee agreed, to consider an urgent request for foreign travel. The Director of SELEP, technically an employee of ECC, requires prior approval for foreign travel but was not aware of this requirement until recently. The trip was due to take place the following day and so urgent approval was sought from the committee. The report provided details of the trip and contained a request for Susan Priest, the Director of SELEP, to accompany the Chairman of the LEP to attend Brussels on 29 and 30 January 2013 to host a series of meetings with MEPs and key DG Regio Officials.

The Committee noted the cost of the visit was £227 per person and would be funded by the LEP so there was no actual cost to the County Council.

The application had been endorsed by the Section 151 Officer and the Chief Executive.

Resolved:

That Susan Priest, Director LEP, attend Brussels on 29 and 30 January 2013 to host a series of meetings with MEPs and key DG Regio Officials, be approved.

The meeting closed at 15:20pm.

Chairman