

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 10.50am on 22 September 2015

Present:

Councillor

David	Finch	Chairman
William	Archibald	(substitute for Cllr Michael Danvers)
Dick	Madden	
Simon	Walsh	

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Mackrory and Councillor Michael Danvers, for whom Councillor William Archibald substituted.

Councillor Roger Hirst was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Approval confirmation for Member and Officer Trade Visit to China

The Committee considered report FTC/06/15 by the Secretary to the Committee, detailing action agreed in principle since the last meeting of the Committee to approve foreign travel to China for Councillor Kevin Bentley and two Officers (Peter Manning and Ge Jing) to participate in a trade and investment promotion visit to Jiangsu Province, between 23 and 31 October 2015, at a total estimated cost of £7044.50.

Given that travel arrangements needed to be made before today's meeting, with the Chairman's agreement, the application had been circulated to all Members of the Committee to seek their agreement in principle, subject to confirmation at this meeting.

Resolved

That the action agreed in principle since the last meeting of the Committee to approve foreign travel to China for Councillor Kevin Bentley and two Officers (Peter Manning and Ge Jing) to participate in a trade and investment promotion visit to Jiangsu Province, between 23 and 31 October 2015, at a total estimated cost of £7044.50, be confirmed.

5. Approval for one extra officer to attend the National Children and Adult Services Conference

The Committee considered report FTC/07/15 by the Secretary to the Committee, detailing an application for one additional officer, James Bullion, Director for Adult Operations, to attend the National Children and Adults Services Conference in Bournemouth on 14 - 16 October 2015. This would add an estimated cost of £828.10 to the existing approval for member and officer attendance confirmed at the meeting of this Committee on 17 February 2015, bringing the combined total to an estimated £4797.60.

Commenting on the value of attendance at the Conference, Councillor Madden highlighted the networking opportunities and confirmed that the attendance of an extra officer would not exceed the combined total of no more than six officers and members, previously agreed by the Leader and the Executive Director for People Commissioning.

Resolved

That approval be given for James Bullion, Director for Adult Operations, to attend the National Children and Adults Services Conference in Bournemouth on 14 - 16 October 2015 at an additional estimated cost of £828.10 to the existing approval of member and officer attendance confirmed at the meeting of this Committee on 17 February 2015. This will bring the combined total to an estimate £4797.60.

6. Approval for Member and Officer Attendance at the County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Conference 2015

The Committee considered report FTC/08/15 by the Secretary to the Committee, detailing an application for five members and one officer to attend the County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Conference in Surrey from 15 – 17 November 2015 at a total estimated cost of £ £3982.80.

Resolved

That approval be given for five members and one officer to attend the County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Conference in Surrey from 15 – 17 November 2015 at a total estimated cost of £ £3982.80.

7. Approval confirmation for Officer Visit to Spain

The Committee considered report FTC/09/15 by the Secretary to the Committee, detailing action agreed in principle since the last meeting of the Committee to approve foreign travel to Spain by one officer to attend the Global Forum Study Tour in Alicante on 24 September 2015 at a total estimated cost of £325.

Councillor Madden expressed his support for this visit, which is supported by West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Resolved

That the action agreed in principle since the last meeting of the Committee to approve foreign travel to Spain by one officer to attend the Global Forum Study Tour in Alicante on 24 September 2015 at a total estimated cost of £325, be confirmed.

8. Report of Action Taken Since Last Meeting - Member Foreign Travel to Brussels

Members considered report, FTC/10/15 by the Secretary to the Committee confirming action taken since the last meeting regarding foreign travel by Councillor Kevin Bentley to visit the East of England European Partnership Office in Brussels on Thursday 30 July 2015.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 20 October 2015 at 10.15 or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to be held that same morning, whichever was the later.

10. Urgent Business

No urgent business was received.

The meeting closed at 11:05

Chairman
20 October 2015