
Minutes of the meeting of the Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and foreign travel by Officers, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex on Tuesday, 13 December 2016

Present:

Councillors:

Michael Danvers
David Finch Chairman
Mike Mackrory

The following Officers were in attendance throughout the meeting:

Paul Turner Interim Monitoring Officer
Sophie Crane Corporate Governance Officer
Jennifer Reid Committee Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Madden and Councillor Reeves.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2016 were approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Annual Report

Members received FTC/13/16 requesting the approval of the Committee to publish the annual reports on foreign travel for 2014-15 and 2015-16. The reports contain details of foreign travel where teams have pre-approval from the Committee.

The Chairman commented on the difficulty of judging the benefits of these trips to Essex County Council and that it would be useful for future annual reports to include a brief summary of the visit. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that as these teams are pre-approved for foreign travel by the Committee, detailed reports on individual visits are not currently requested.

Members commented that it would be beneficial for future reports to show more clearly where there is no net cost to the council, allowing for external funding or income generated, and provide total of costs both net and gross.

Resolved

1. That the reports at appendix 1 and 2 be published on the Council's website subject to the addition of totals in Appendix 1 .
2. That the report for 2016/17 be prepared in summer 2017 and the policy of producing an annual report be reviewed at that time.
3. That consideration be given to the format of the report in future to highlight where foreign travel does not incur cost to Essex County Council.

4 Confirmation of action taken since last meeting - Approval for Member Attendance at the National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) 2016 Conference

The Committee considered report FTC/14/16 by the Secretary to the Committee, which sought to confirm the action agreed in principle since the last meeting regarding proposed Member Attendance at the National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) 2016 Conference.

Resolved

That the action agreed in principle since the last meeting of the Committee to approve in principle Member Attendance at the National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) 2016 Conference 2 and 4 November 2016 at an estimated cost of £900 plus VAT, be confirmed.

5 Feedback from Member Attendance at the National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) 2016 Conference

The Committee noted report FTC/15/16 provide feedback from Councillor Dick Madden following his attendance at the National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) 2016 Conference.

6 Feedback from Member Attendance at the CCN Conference 2016

The Committee noted report FTC/16/16 which provided feedback following the attendance of Councillor Finch, Councillor Bentley, Councillor Madden, Councillor Mackrory, Councillor Henderson and one officer, Peter Fairley at the County Councils Network (CCN) annual conference in Surrey 6th – 8th November 2016.

The Chairman commented on the value of including copies of conference programs, agendas or itineraries with future feedback reports to the Committee.

7 Feedback from Member Travel to China

The Committee received report FTC/17/16 which provided feedback (report attached) from Councillor Dick Madden following his visit to China in October 2016.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 24 January 2017 at 10.15am or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to held that morning, whichever is the later.

Chairman