

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 10.40am on 10 October 2013

Present:

Councillors

David	Finch	(Chairman)
Michael	Danvers	
Mike	Mackrory	
Dick	Madden	
Simon	Walsh	

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to replacement of the word 'attach' with 'attend' in the second line of the second paragraph of minute 5 (Member Attendance at the ADASS Conference) such that this would now read:

"The Committee considered report FTC/09/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for three Members to attend the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Conference in Harrogate from 16-18 October."

2. Variation in the Order of Business

Upon the motion of the Chairman, duly carried, it was agreed to consider agenda item 6 (Officer Foreign Travel – Local Government and Surface Water Flooding Conference) as the next item of business.

3. Officer Foreign Travel – Local Government and Surface Water Flooding Conference

The Committee considered report FP/13/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for Lucy Shepherd, Flood Partnerships Manager, Strategic Development, to attend an international conference on flooding organised by the Local Government Flood Forum. The Conference would take place in Paris on 23 October 2013. As attendance at the conference was free, and travel costs were being met by the conference organisers, the only cost to the County Council would be in respect of accommodation and subsistence, expected to be in the region of £250.

Members noted that approval in respect of the attendance at the conference of Rosanna Briggs (Deputy County Emergency Planning Officer), was not a matter for the Committee as she was an employee of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Lucy Shepherd, Flood Partnerships Manager, at a Local Government and Surface Water Flooding Conference to be held in Paris on 23 October 2013, at an estimated cost, of £250 be approved.

4. Officer Foreign Travel – EPODE Conference

The Committee considered report FTC/11/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for Roger Bullen, Head of Partnership and Business Support, to attend the EPODE International Conference on Childhood Obesity in Bucharest on 16 October 2013. Funding had been provided by the Conference organisers and there would be no cost to the County Council.

Mr Bullen was in attendance to respond to Members' questions.

In considering the application, Members noted the value to the Council of attendance at the Conference, particularly in terms of reputation, networking and the opportunity to explore the possibility of undertaking funded work on childhood obesity.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Roger Bullen, Head of Partnership and Business Support, at the EPODE International Conference on Childhood Obesity in Bucharest on 16 October 2013, at no cost to the County Council, be approved.

5. Officer Foreign Travel – European Venture Philanthropy Association Conference

The Committee considered report FTC/09/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for Roger Bullen, Head of Partnership and Business Support, to attend the European Venture Philanthropy Association Annual Conference in Geneva from 26-27 November 2013. The estimated cost of attendance was £300 in respect of flights and accommodation.

Mr Bullen was in attendance to respond to Members' questions.

In reaching its decision, the Committee noted that Mr Bullen's attendance at the Conference would benefit the Council in terms of reputation, networking opportunities and the chance to showcase the Essex experience of Social Investment and Social Impact Bonds.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Roger Bullen, Head of Partnership and Business Support, at the European Venture Philanthropy Association Annual Conference in Geneva from 26-27 November 2013, at an estimated cost of £300, be approved.

6. Officer Foreign Travel – ERSTE Foundation Conference

The Committee considered report FTC/14/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for Roger Bullen, Head of Partnership and Business Support, to attend and speak at the ERSTE Foundation Conference in Prague on 28-29 October 2013. All the costs associated with Mr Bullen's attendance would be met by the Conference organisers.

Mr Bullen was in attendance to respond to Members' questions. He advised that his attendance at the Conference would benefit Essex in terms of reputation, networking and the opportunity to share the County's experience of Social Investment and Social Impact Bonds.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Roger Bullen, Head of Partnership and Business Support, at the IERSTE Foundcation Conference in Prague on 28-29 October 2013, at no cost to the County Council, be approved.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 7 November 2013, at 10.30am or on the rising of the Cabinet meeting to be held that same morning, whichever is the later.

8. Urgent Business

The Chairman agreed to consideration of the following item of urgent business on the grounds that the events for which approval was being sought would take place before the next meeting of the Committee.

Member/Officer Attendance at Events Connected with the SUSCOD Project

The Committee was informed of an application regarding the attendance of Councillor John Jowers (Cabinet Member for Libraries, Communities and Plannin), Andrew Cook (Head of Planning, Environment andEconomic Growth) and Hilary Rowlands (Senior Regeneration Manager) at two events connected with the EU-funded SUSCOD project to be held in Amsterdam from 5-7 November 2013.

As no details were available and the application had yet to receive approval from the Chief Executive and the S151 Officer, the Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chairman to determine the matter once these issues had been resolved.

Resolved:

The authority be delegated to the Chairman of the Committee to determine the application for Councillor John Jowers and two officers to attend events connected with the EU-funded SUSCOD project in Amsterdam from 5-7 November 2013.*

***Note by the Secretary to the Committee**

The application was subsequently approved by the Chairman on 17 October 2013.

The meeting closed at 10.55am

Chairman
7 November 2013