

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 11.05am 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.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors David Finch and Mike Mackrory declared personal interests in agenda item 5 (Member Attendance at the CCN Conference – minute 4 below refers) as they were due to attend the Conference.

Councillor Dick Madden declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (Member Attendance at the ADASS Conference – minute 5 below refers) in that he was due to attend the Conference.

3. Officer Foreign Travel – EPODE Conference

Councillors David Finch and Mike Mackrory declared a personal interest in this item (minute 2 above refers).

The Committee considered report FTC/08/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for Members to attend the CCN Conference in Chester from 16-19 November 2013 at an estimated cost of £2,881.20. The report stated that four members were due to attend but this had now been increased to five, raising the total cost to £3,452.50.

Peter Fairley, Head of the Cabinet and Leader's Office, 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 the opportunity to meet and lobby ministers and to showcase the work of the Council.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Councillors David Finch, John Jowers, Kevin Bentley, Mike Mackrory and Julie Young at the CCN Conference in Chester from 16 – 19 November 2013 at an estimated cost of £3,452.20 be approved.

4. Officer Foreign Travel – European Venture Philanthropy Association Conference

Councillor Dick Madden declared a personal interest in this item (minute 2 above refers).

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. The estimated cost of attendance was £2,350. A number of officers would also be in attendance.

Peter Fairley, Head of the Cabinet and Leader's Officer, was in attendance to respond to Members' questions.

In reaching its decision, the Committee noted that the event was high-profile and intense, and wide representation was needed to enable advantage to be taken of the full range of workshops and other sessions. The value of attendance to the Council was particularly strong in terms of the opportunity to meet and lobby ministers.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Councillors Ann Naylor, Dick Madden and Anne Brown at the ADASS Conference in Harrogate from 16 – 18 October 2013 at an estimated cost of £2,350 be approved.

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

6. Officer Foreign Travel – ERSTE Foundation Conference

The Committee considered report FTC/10/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for David Wilde (Chief Information Officer) to attend the IT Directors Forum as a keynote speaker. The Conference was due to take place in Athens on 23 October 2013. Mr Wilde would attend the event in his own time and the associated costs would be met by the organisers of the event, Boussias Communications.

David Wilde was in attendance to respond to Members' questions. He advised that his involvement with the Forum offered an excellent opportunity to showcase the Council.

Councillor Danvers expressed the view that officers should be permitted to attend events such as this in work time.

Resolved:

That the attendance of David Wilde, Chief Information Officer, at the IT Directors Forum in Athens on 23 October 2013 at no cost to the 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.

The meeting closed at 11.25am

Chairman
7 November 2013