

APPROVAL FOR MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS/VISITS

involving travel abroad / individual costs exceeding £500 / aggregate costs for more than one member of £1,000

Name of Member(s) travelling:

**Cllr David Finch
Cllr Kevin Bentley
Cllr Dick Madden
Cllr Louise McKinlay
Cllr Mike Mackrory**

Name of officers also attending (if any)
(to allow the Committee to make a full
assessment of ECC representation)

Gavin Jones, Chief Executive

Details of the visit/event (incl. dates):

- LGA Annual Conference, 30 June to 2 July at the Harrogate Convention Centre, Harrogate

Estimated cost of the visit:

£ 7034.4

Rationale for the estimated cost:

* Please note you will need to demonstrate that in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme three quotes have been obtained before booking foreign hotels.

LGA Conference fee: 6 X £654 (£545pp plus VAT) = £3924

Accommodation: 6 X 3 nights bed and breakfast @£129 pp/pn = £2322

Travel: based on 6 X £131.40 (same price for 2 x singles or 1 return) = £788.40

*Hotel needs to be within 10 minutes walking distance. This was lowest price suitable accommodation following three quotes. Cheaper hotels are available but are further away from Conference Centre. Accommodation costs may be less as some may not require accommodation for all nights of the full conference.

Purpose of the visit and anticipated value to the County Council:

The Local Government Association (LGA) is a politically-led, cross party organisation which works on behalf of councils across England and Wales to ensure that local government has a strong and credible voice with national government. The LGA's membership includes fire, national parks, passenger transport and police authorities.

The LGA Annual Conference is one of the largest events in the local government calendar and regularly attracts over 1,100 delegates. The conference is attended by Council Leaders and Chief Executives, senior officers, lead members and policy makers across local government. It also attracts high numbers from LGA partner organisations in the wider public sector, as well as the private and voluntary sectors.

The programme for this year's conference has not been published yet but the website says "Held over three days in Harrogate, the conference provides an opportunity for

delegates to engage in a range of sessions on how innovation and good practice can deliver the best local public services for our communities. We will be holding policy discussions on subjects ranging from sustainable funding, adult and children's social care, and housing and homelessness.”

The conference is a prime opportunity to discuss best practice and share innovation with delegates from up and down the country as well as establishing key relationships and alliances. In addition, delegates will have the opportunity to share experiences, hear high-profile speakers, debate issues of importance and network with colleagues, peers and partners.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

It is important that the Council is effectively represented at this conference. Numbers attending is proportionate and costs have been minimised.

Paul Turner 9 January 2020

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

To be completed after travel and submitted by email to democratic.services@essex.gov.uk:
Actual total cost of visit: £