

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 11.25am on 18 June 2013

Present:

Councillors

David	Finch	(Chairman)
Mike	Mackrory	
Dick	Madden	
Simon	Walsh	

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor M Danvers.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D Finch declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 (Approval for a visit to be undertaken by Members and Officers: MJ Awards Evening) in that he was on the list of potential attendees at the Awards Evening (although he did not intend to accept the invitation). Minute 4 below refers.

4. Approval for a visit to be undertaken by Members and Officers: MJ Awards Evening

Councillor D Finch declared a personal interest in this item (minute 3 above refers). He remained present during its consideration and participated in the debate, but did not vote.

The Committee considered report FTC/06/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for a group of seven members and officers to attend the Municipal Journal (MJ) Awards Evening Presentation and Dinner in London on 2 June 2013. Essex County Council had been shortlisted for three Awards, the outcome of which would be announced on the night. As attendance was to be sponsored by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), the total costs related to travel only and would be £200. Peter Fairley, Head of the Cabinet and Leader's Office, was in attendance to respond to Members' questions.

The Committee agreed that it was important for Council employees to be recognised and celebrated for their hard work and innovation and acknowledged that events such as this provided a networking opportunity. It was therefore appropriate for officers, rather than members, to attend on this occasion.

Councillor Mackrory expressed concern that attendance was being funded by PWC, a current contractor / provider of ECC (although the relevant contract had been won in an open tender process prior to knowledge of the Awards Evening or the related sponsorship). His vote against the proposal is recorded.

Resolved:

That the attendance of up to seven officers at the Municipal Journal Awards Evening Presentation and Dinner in London on 20 June 2013 be agreed.

The meeting closed at 11:30am.

Chairman
16 July 2013