



Essex County Council

Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and foreign travel by Officers

10:15	Tuesday, 21 January 2020	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 033301 36276

Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

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4	The LGC Investment Seminar	10 - 13
5	Date of Next Meeting To note that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 10.15am or on the rise of the Cabinet meeting due to take place that morning, whichever is the later.	
6	Urgent Business To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.	

7 Urgent Exempt Business

To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. If there is exempted business, it will be clearly marked as an Exempt Item on the agenda and members of the public and any representatives of the media will be asked to leave the meeting room for that item.

The agenda is available on the [Essex County Council website](#) and by then following the links from [Running the Council](#) or you can go directly to the [Meetings Calendar](#) to see what is happening this month.

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The Council Chamber and Committee Rooms are accessible by lift and are located on the first and second floors of County Hall.

Induction loop facilities are available in most Meeting Rooms. Specialist headsets are available from Reception.

With sufficient notice, documents can be made available in alternative formats, for further information about this or about the meeting in general please contact the named officer on the agenda pack or email democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

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Should you wish to record the meeting, please contact the officer shown on the agenda front page.

Agenda item 1

Committee: Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign travel by Officers

Enquiries to: Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum: 3)

Councillor D Finch
Councillor S Barker
Councillor K Bentley
Councillor M Mackrory
Councillor D Madden

Chairman

Minutes of a 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, CM1 1QH at 10.15am on Tuesday 17 December 2019

Present:

Councillor

D Finch (Chairman)

K Bentley

S Barker

D Madden

M Mackrory

The following officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

Gemma Bint Democratic Services Officer

Paul Turner Director, Legal and Assurance

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest.

The report of Membership, Apologies and Declarations of Interest was received and it was noted:

1. There had been no changes in membership since the Committee's last meeting;
2. No apologies for absence had been received.
3. There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Approval for Officer Foreign Travel to the Netherlands

The Committee considered an application (FTC/14/19) for Gavin Jones, Chief Executive, to travel to the Netherlands to attend the first Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) Mayors and Rectors meeting in Maastricht City Hall, between 12 – 13 January 2020.

The Committee noted that the trip would be fully funded by the University of Essex.

Resolved:

That travel to the Netherlands by Gavin Jones, Chief Executive, to attend the first Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) Mayors and Rectors meeting between 12 – 13 January 2020, be approved.

4. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 10.15am, or on the rise of the Cabinet meeting due to take place that morning, whichever is the later.

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Chairman
21 January 2020

Report title: Approval for Member and Officer attendance at the LGA Annual Conference	
Report to: Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	
Report author: Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 21 January 2020	For: Decision
Enquiries to: Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer, gemma.bint@essex.gov.uk , 03330 136276	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider an application (attached to this report) for five members (Councillors Finch, Bentley, Madden, McKinlay and Mackrory) and one officer (Gavin Jones, Chief Executive) to attend the LGA Annual Conference from 30 June to 02 July 2020 in Harrogate.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That attendance for five Members and an officer at the LGA Annual Conference from 30 June to 02 July 2020 at the Harrogate Convention Centre, at an estimated total cost of £7,034.40, be approved.

Appendix 1: Application for Member and officer attendance at the LGA Annual Conference on 30 June – 02 July 2020 in Harrogate.

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: £

Report title: Approval for Member and Officer attendance at The LGC Investment Seminar	
Report to: Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	
Report author: Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 21 January 2020	For: Decision
Enquiries to: Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer, gemma.bint@essex.gov.uk , 03330 136276	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider an application (attached to this report) for one member (Cllr Susan Barker) and two officers (Samantha Andrews, Investment Manager, Essex Pension Fund and Sara Maxey, Employer Manager, Essex Pension Fund) to attend The LGC Investment Seminar from 26 – 28 February 2020 at Carden Park, Cheshire.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That attendance for one member and two officers at The LGC Investment Seminar from 26 – 28 February 2020 in Cheshire, at an estimated total cost of £1,999.60, be approved.

Appendix 1: Application for member and officer attendance at The LGC Investment Seminar from 26 – 28 February 2020 in Cheshire.

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 Susan Barker

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

**Samantha Andrews, Investment
Manager, Essex Pension Fund**

**Sara Maxey, Employer Manager, Essex
Pension Fund**

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

26 – 28 February 2020

The Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") issued its final policy statement setting out the rules for implementation of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive ("MiFID II"), which was effective from 3 January 2018.

The result of this Directive was a requirement that local authorities administering LGPS pension funds are required to “opt up” to be treated as “professional” (rather than “retail”) clients with all their external investment managers and consultants.

Prior to this Directive being effective the Fund was automatically deemed to have professional status. Without the opt up the Fund would default to be treated as a retail client and as a consequence, would then not be able to invest in many of the asset classes and pooled funds it currently invests in.

In order to fulfil the requirements of MiFID II and to maintain “professional client” status, Committee Members are to fulfil regular training to enable decisions to be made.

Estimated cost of the visit:

£ 1999.60

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.

Travel: Train from Chelmsford to Chester & return incl taxi provision = £340

Accommodation: Carden Park hotel for 26 & 27 February 2020 including Seminar attendance Fee = £1,509.60

Refreshments and meals not included in the programme: 3 attendees Dinner on 26 February 2020 plus refreshments = £150 (£50 per person).

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

The LGC Investment Seminar provides the Committee Members and Officers of the Fund with clarity on critical issues and what this means for Essex County Council. Critical issues include unstable political and economic environment, the implications of the McCloud judgement, the cost cap, the growing challenge of pensions admin or the investment implications of the climate emergency.

The event will provide practical advice from Pools and Funds, insight on what's new in investment and greater opportunities for the Committee Members to sense check their priorities.

The LGC Investment Seminar is at Carden Park, Cheshire and therefore travel is required on Wednesday 26 February 2020 for the start of the seminar on the morning of Thursday the 27 February 2020. The event ends on Friday 28 February 2020 at midday allowing the afternoon for travel home.

Attendance: 2 Fund Officers and 1 Member

26 February 2020

Travel of 2 Officers and 1 Members via train: approx. £150

Taxi from station to Carden Park: approx. £20

28 February 2020

Travel of 2 Officers and 1 Members via train: approx. £150

Taxi from Carden Park to Station: approx. £20

26&27 February Accommodation:

2 nights' accommodation, including one nights networking dinner and 2-day seminar pass for one attendee is free of charge.

2 nights' accommodation, including one nights networking dinner and 2-day seminar pass for two attendees will cost £1,509.60 including VAT.

Comments of the Chief Executive

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

To be completed after travel and submitted by email to

Democratic.Services@essex.ov.uk

Actual total cost of visit: £