

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

10:30	Tuesday, 17 December 2013	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex
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Please note: This Committee will commence at the time shown above, or on the rise of the Cabinet meeting to be held that morning, whichever is the later.

Quorum: 3

Membership:

M Danvers
D Finch
M Mackrory
D Madden
S Walsh

For information about the meeting please ask for:

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Essex County Council

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.

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Please note that an audio recording may be made of the meeting – at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded.

Part 1

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

		Pages
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Minutes To consider the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2013	5 - 6
3	Declarations of Interest To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members	
4	SUSCOD Project Events To receive a report from Cllr John Jowers following his attendance at the End Conference for the SUSCOD Project	7 - 10
5	Date of Next Meeting To note that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 January 2014	
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.	

Exempt Items

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

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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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.

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 12.35pm on 7 November 2013

Present:

Councillors

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Officer Foreign Travel – International Cycling Safety Conference

The Committee considered report FP/15/13 by the Secretary to the Committee detailing an application for Daniel Carlin, Senior Road Safety Officer – Cycling Manager to attend the International Cycling Safety Conference in The Netherlands on 20 and 21 November 2013. The cost to the County Council would be £390.

Daniel Carlin was present and responded to Members' questions.

Resolved:

That the attendance of Daniel Carlin, Senior Road Safety Officer – Cycling Manager at the International Cycling Safety Conference to be held in The Netherlands on 20 and 21 November 2013, at an estimated cost of £390, be approved.

3. Member and Officer Attendance at SUSCOD Project Events

The Committee received report FTC/16/13 by the Secretary to the Committee which provided an update on an urgent application for Member and Officer foreign travel considered at the last meeting on 10 October 2013. Members noted that, acting in accordance with the authority delegated to him at the meeting, the Chairman had approved an application for Councillor John Jowers (Cabinet Member for Libraries, Communities and Planning), Andrew Cook (Head of Planning, Environment and Economic Growth) and Hilary Rowlands (Senior Regeneration Manager) to attend two events connected with the EU-funded SUSCOD project. The events had been held in Amsterdam from 5-7 November 2013 and the total cost of £1306.96 (excluding taxes) had been met from EU

funding for the SUSCOD Project (which had included project activity match from Essex County Council).

The Chairman commented that Councillor Jowers would be asked to report back to a future meeting.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 17 December 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 12.45pm

Chairman
17 December 2013

Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	FTC/17/13
Date: 17 December 2013	
Report of the End Conference for the SUSCOD Project	
Report by: Councillor John Jowers	
Enquiries to: Judith Dignum, 01245 430044, ext 20044	

1. Purpose of the Report

To receive a report from Cllr John Jowers following his attendance at the End Conference for the SUSCOD Project

Briefing Note

Councillor John Jowers' attendance at End Conference for the SUSCOD Project

The SUSCOD end conference took place on 6th November 2013 and was held in Amsterdam; The Netherlands. This was the final conference (following 3 regional conferences earlier in the programme) to publish some of the findings of the international activity and formally launch the SUSCOD 'Assistant' (a web-based tool to support coastal practitioners working in the North Sea region).

Councillor John Jowers attended the final conference on the 6th November and then returned to the UK. Officers that have been involved in project delivery (Andrew Cook and Hilary Rowlands) stayed for additional project activity on 7th November.

Essex County Council has been working with international partners to deliver the SUSCOD programme since 2009 and has benefitted from significant international shared learning, as well as finance, to support necessary project delivery within the County.

The end conference was chaired by the SUSCOD Lead Partner; the Province of North Holland, and introductions were given by Joanna Geldhof, Provincial Executive of the 'Water and Wadden Sea' organisation. Councillor John Jowers was introduced to Mrs Geldhof during the conference in order that Essex County Council can continue to consolidate relationships with North Holland. North Holland is a key partner for many of the European programmes and strong relationships are therefore vital to secure joint working going forward. Having an ECC Cabinet Member attend the final conference showed real commitment from the County Council to not only SUSCOD, but European projects in general.

DG Environment addressed the conference to discuss the proposal for a directive to establish a framework for integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning. It is important for ECC to be involved in these discussions and be aware of current European Directorate-General thinking, in order to ensure that future EU funding applications and activity are relevant and therefore more likely to be approved for funding. A subsequent presentation by the Interreg Joint Technical Secretariat was held regarding future programmes, again providing some insight for future bidding rounds.

A significant part of the conference was set aside for a professor of Change Management to discuss Integrated Coastal Zone (change) Management (ICZM). ICZM was a key component of the SUSCOD programme – ascertaining how coastal practitioners might best ensure that coastal change management is considered holistically. A focused discussion on theories and findings was therefore appreciated by all partners and fed back into the European Secretariat.

The funding for travel and accommodation for the conference was fully met by Essex County Council's commitment within SUSCOD. It is necessary for any European project to have a travel budget, in order to support international partnership working. The match funding which Essex County Council provided for the project was all allocated to previously agreed priority projects for the council in 2008/9 and going forward. These included Harwich public realm works, Walton on the Naze Crag Walk and officer time, for example.

With the future requirement to focus more strongly upon EU funding, given the lack of internal funds, it is necessary to consolidate existing positive partnerships with EU Member States. Essex County Council, through the SUSCOD project, has secured trusted relationships with Dutch, Belgian, Danish, Swedish and Scottish (Fife) partners and Councillor John Jowers' attendance at the end conference for SUSCOD highlighted Essex County Council's commitment to strong international partnership working going forward.