

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 Louise McKinlay

Cllr K Bentley, Cllr I Henderson, Cllr D Madden and Cllr M Mackrory have already been approved (September 2018)

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

Gavin Jones has already been approved (September 2018)

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

County Council Network Conference 2018, 18-20 November 2018, Guildford, Surrey

Estimated cost of the visit:

Conference Cost:

Cost per delegate £700+VAT

Total cost (including those already agreed)
£4,200 + VAT

Rationale for the estimated cost:

The conference fee includes accommodation and all meals.

Travel costs:

Rail fares Chelmsford to Guildford (arriving around 16:00) are £62.10pp. Rail fares for all attendees would be in the region of £372.60.

The total cost for the entire conference (accommodation, conference fee and travel) is therefore approximately £4572.60 plus VAT

Additional attendance by Cllr Louise McKinlay

Given the challenging financial situation that all Local Authorities are facing, we have decided that it would be valuable to have the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance in attendance at the conference, both to learn from other Local Authorities and. to share Essex County Council's experience and best practice.

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

The County Councils Network (CCN) is a cross party special interest group of the

Local Government Association with speaks, develops policy and shares good practice for the County group of local authorities, whether unitary or upper tier.

The CCN Annual Conference brings together members and officers over a two-day period providing a unique opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing local government, to share experience and to find solutions to common issues.

The Conference is an opportunity for senior ECC Councillors to meet with senior leaders at other county councils and with senior government ministers and featuring high profile speakers occupied with a range of sessions and workshops; debating all of the main issues facing county councils and unitary authorities.

CCN Conference has attracted prominent Secretaries of State to speak and answer questions, as well as expert speakers, analysts and commentators from the local government sector and beyond.

It will explore opportunities and challenges facing local government and will emphasise how important the delivery of county services are economically and socially to local communities, demonstrating to the new Government, MPs and national stakeholders that upper-tier authorities are vital bodies for delivering devolution and service transformation in non-metropolitan areas.

Comments of the Chief Executive

I am happy to support Cllr. Mackinlay's application.

Gavin Jones, 06/11/18

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

Approved - Purpose of the visit is in line with ECC approved duties and costs conform to approved policies

Margaret Lee
9 November 2018