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| Report title: Approval for Member attendance at the CCN 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 September 2021 | For: Decision |
| Enquiries to: gemma.bint@essex.gov.uk, 03330136276 | |
| County Divisions affected: All Essex | |

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider an amended application which includes Councillors Mackrory and Henderson, to attend in addition to Councillors Bentley, Ball and McKinlay the County Councils Network (CCN) 2021 conference between 21 November and 23 November 2021 in Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That attendance for five members to attend the CCN 2021 conference between 21 November and 23 November 2021 in Marlow, Buckinghamshire at a total estimated cost of £4886 be approved.

Appendix (attached to this report): Amended Application for Member attendance at the CCN 2021 Conference

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 Kevin Bentley
Cllr Louise McKinlay
Cllr Tony Ball
Cllr Mike Mackrory
Cllr Ivan Henderson

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

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

**CCN's 2021 Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Marlow, Buckinghamshire
between Sunday 21st November and Tuesday 23rd November 2021.**

Residential delegate rate (covering the full 2 days attendance at the conference)
Sunday 21st November 2021- Tuesday 23rd November 2021 (x2 nights)
Delegate Place with Accommodation for Sunday and Monday - £780pp + VAT

Total cost for attendees: £780 + VAT per person

Estimated cost of the visit for **5** attendees: £ 4680.00 total

Rationale for the estimated cost:

Travel costs: off peak return Chelmsford to Marlow leaving on 21/11 @ 07:55, return on 23/11 @ 18:24, costing £41.20 per person. Rail fares for all 5 attendees is £206

Total cost for travel, accommodation and conference is **£4886**

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 which 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 2 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 coupled with a range of sessions and workshop; debating all of the main issues facing county councils and county unitary authorities.

*At the June meeting of the County Councils Network (CCN) Executive, members were very keen that, having missed last year, they wanted to hold this year's annual conference in-person. The CCN Team have now put plans in place and **are delighted to be able to invite you to CCN's 2021 Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Marlow, Buckinghamshire between Sunday 21st November and Tuesday 23rd November 2021.***

As one of the first major public sector conferences since the start of the pandemic, this will be a high-profile event with engaging speakers, discussing the main issues facing local government, including levelling up, county devolution, social care reform and the Spending Review. There will also be plenty of opportunities to network with councillors and senior officers from across CCN's membership.

We hope to be able to share details about a full programme with you soon, but already-confirmed speakers at the conference include:

- *Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Rt.Hon Robert Jenrick, MP*
- *Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Steve Reed MP*
- *Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee, Rt.Hon Jeremy Hunt MP*
- *Former Health Secretary and former Social Mobility Commission Chair, Rt.Hon Alan Milburn*
- *The government Levelling Up Advisor, Neil O'Brien MP*
- *Chair of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, Josh MacAlister*
- *UK100 Chief Executive, Polly Billington*



Comments of the Chief Executive



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:

