



Essex County Council

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

10:30	Tuesday, 21 September 2021	Council Chamber 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

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

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4	Officer Foreign Travel to Denmark, 4 - 6 October 2021 Report to follow.	

5 Annual Report 2020/21

The Foreign Travel Policy states that foreign travel by officers must be approved by the Committee unless the officer is in a team which has been given pre-approval for foreign travel, pre-approval is given where the Committee accepts that there is a need to travel abroad.

The policy indicates that a summary of travel undertaken by 'pre-approved' teams must be reported to the Committee on an annual basis. Members are asked to note that for the period 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021 there was no travel falling into this category, therefore there is no report to consider.

6 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 24 November 2021 on the rise of the Cabinet meeting due to take place that day.

7 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)

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.

8 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.

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 K Bentley
Councillor T Ball
Councillor M Mackrory
Councillor L McKinlay
Councillor C Pond

Chairman

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and foreign travel by Officers held virtually at 10.45am on Tuesday 15 September 2020.

Present:

Councillor D Madden (Chairman)
Councillor S Barker
Councillor M Mackrory
Councillor J Spence (Substitute for Councillor Bentley)

The following officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

Joanna Boaler Head of Democracy and Transparency
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. Apologies of absence were received by Councillor Finch and Councillor Bentley for whom Councillor Spence was substituting.
3. There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Foreign Travel Annual Report

The Committee received the report on foreign travel activity for 2019/20 attached as Appendix 1 to report FTC/05/20 and agreed it should be published on the Council's website.

Resolved:

That the report on foreign travel 2019/20 be published on the Council's website.

4. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 20 October 2020 at 10.15am, or on the rise of the Cabinet meeting due to take place that morning, whichever is latest.

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Chairman
20 October 2020

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 application (attached to this report) for three members (Councillors Bentley, Ball and McKinlay) to attend the County Councils Network (CCN) 2021 conference between 21 November and 23 November 2021 in Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That attendance for three members to attend the CCN 2021 conference between 21 November and 23 November 2021 in Marlow, Buckinghamshire at a total estimated cost of £2,931.60 plus VAT, be approved.

Appendix 1: 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

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 3 attendees: £780 + VAT per person

Estimated cost of the visit: £ 2808.00 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 3 attendees is £123.60.

Total cost for travel, accommodation and conference is £2931.60.

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*

Approved by Gavin Jones, 13 September 2021

Comments of the Chief Executive



Nicole Wood, 9 September 2021

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: