

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report concerns the development of a cross party approach for members attendances at local, regional and national conferences and seminars in future.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended:

- (a) That the Council endorses the list of approved conferences and seminars, set out in Appendix 1 to this report
- (b) That the provision for all conferences and seminars shall in future be incorporated into the Members' Services budget and that all such expenditure shall be managed by the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
- (c) That the total amount the Council spends on attending conferences and seminars be reduced by approximately 20% with effect from 1 April 2012 by discontinuing attendance at the Annual CIPFA Conference.
- (d) That the residual amount in the budget of circa £1,500 be used to fund attendances at one-off events as required and approved by the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

REPORT

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Following the invitation extended to all Group Leaders by the Leader of the Council, the cross party Working Group on Conferences and Seminars first met on 31 October and subsequently on 28 November 2011. Its purpose has been to evaluate the benefits to the Council of members attendances at

various local, regional and national local government conferences and seminars; to determine whether an agreed list of annual events could be recommended to the Council for adoption; and establish whether savings of between 10-20% could be achieved in the 2012/13 financial year.

- 3.2 Attached at Appendix 1 to this report for members approval is a list of conferences/seminars which the Working Group considers the Council should attend each year. The cost of such attendances totals £6,564.10 . However, in addition, it is recommended that provision is included within the budget for other attendances at appropriate policy and fact finding events.
- 3.3 Further, it is recommended that the provision for all conferences and seminars shall in future be incorporated into the Members' Service budget and that all such expenditure is in future controlled by the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
- 3.4 Should members concur with the Working Group's recommendations, this will have the effect of saving 20% on the conferences/seminars budget in 2011/12.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
Keith Barrow

Local Member
N/A

Appendices
Appendix 1 – Approved List of Conferences