



Coventry City Council

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Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
REPORT OF: Councillor John Mutton and Councillor Ann Lucas
TITLE: LGA Annual Conference & Exhibition 2009
DATE: 30 June – 2 July 2009
VENUE: Harrogate International Centre

1. Recommendation

To keep sending Members to take part in information sharing.

2. Background

Annual attendance.

3. Cost of attending

Conference Fees: £519 per person

Flights: None

Additional Travel Expenses: Car Mileage

Accommodation: £120 pp per night for 3 nights.

Subsistence: None

4. Benefits

The LGA Conference started at 9.30am on Tuesday, 30th June for Registration, followed by Political Group Meetings. In the afternoon the General Assembly Meeting took place but a consensus had been reached by the Political Parties, therefore, no votes were necessary. The first plenary session was entitled "Big issues, local solutions" which highlighted the roles local authorities had to play in helping deal with the recession. This was followed by eight different workshops.

On second day the first plenary session again dealt with recession with an excellent contribution from Rachel Lomax, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. This was followed by further eight workshop sessions before lunch. The afternoon was extremely busy with three plenary sessions. The first one entitled "Maintaining and improving perceptions of a high-profile brand" which effectively was about public satisfaction of Council services is improving but the public perception of Councils is not. The second one was entitled "care with dignity and respect" and again demonstrates how Coventry's policy of new homes for old is being adopted by many other Councils' as older people now have higher expectations of the services they receive. This again was followed by Political Group sessions.

The final day started with another eight workshop sessions followed by a plenary session headed by Vincent Cable MP followed by the seventh plenary session and for me the most important one entitled "Protecting Children". Whilst I thought that Moria Gibb, Chief Executive, London Borough of Camden and Chair of the Social Work Taskforce was far too academic in her presentation the contribution by Martin Narey, Chief Executive of Barnardo's was excellent. Unfortunately, the ending of his presentation was spoiled by Tory Councillors, who obviously hadn't been interested in Safeguarding Children, entering the auditorium in the nosiest and most ill mannered way possible so they could grab seats for when David Cameron MP spoke. Their own Chairman chastised them in no uncertain terms. I cannot give a report on the eighth plenary session when David Cameron MP spoke as I had left the auditorium so that I didn't have to listen to him.

All in all this was probably one of the best LGA Conferences that I have attended and it is a shame that Conservative Group didn't send any Members.

List of background papers

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Papers open to public inspection

Description of paper: **Location**

Approved by Cabinet on:
Report: