



Coventry City Council

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Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

19th January 2011

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

TITLE: Local Government Association Annual Conference 2010

DATE: 6-8 July 2010

VENUE: Bournemouth International Centre

1. Recommendation

1.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is asked to note the report setting out the benefits of attending the Local Government Association Annual Conference 2010.

2. Background

2.1 Coventry City Council is a member of the Local Government Association (LGA) which is a voluntary organisation for local authorities in England and Wales to provide a national voice for local government and improve public services for local people.

2.2 The LGA conference is the key local government event of the year and is attended by Government Ministers and MPs including senior politicians from all parties; senior civil servants and senior figures from across the public, voluntary and private sector as well as elected members and senior officers from all types of local authorities.

2.3 The 2010 conference took place within the context of the new Coalition Government and during the preparation for the Comprehensive Spending Review for October 2010.

2.4 This year's LGA annual conference was attended by Cllr Lucas, Cllr Kelly, Cllr Abbott, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Foster. (Attendance at Conference Form attached)

3. Cost of attending

Conference Fees: £2595 (£519 x 5)

Flights: n/a

Travel Costs: £70.50

Accommodation: £724 – (Councillor Lucas's accommodation was funded by the LGA)

4. Benefits

- 4.1 The conference was titled "*changing times, changing minds*" and provided the opportunity to learn more about developing central government policy and the implications for local government. This was particularly important this year as the new Coalition Government is making significant changes to policy that will have significant impact on all the council's services and local people.
- 4.2 The conference covered a wide range of service and policy areas including: young people and education; social care; community safety; climate change; the recession and support to businesses; transport; sport and leisure; local government management; efficiency and funding.
- 4.3 There was particular focus on the likely content on the then forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review and the potentially unprecedented reduction in funding for local authorities and other public sector bodies. This information helped to inform the Council's planning in advance of the CSR and the budget setting for 2011/12.
- 4.4 The conference also enabled councillors to promote the city's interests and lobby central government. One specific example was the opportunity to question the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove MP, about the impact of the ending of Building Schools for the Future on Coventry's schools. This helped lead to a visit to the city from officials from the Department of Education for discussions about other capital funding that might be available from government for local schools.

List of background papers

Proper Officer: Chief Executive

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(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors to report:

Councillor Ann Lucas

Councillor Lynette Kelly

Councillor Faye Abbott

Councillor Ken Taylor

Councillor Kevin Foster

Papers open to public inspection

Description of paper: Attendance at Conference/Seminar Form **Location:** CH60
(approved by Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) on 8th July, 2010)

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS
AUTHORITY FOR ATTENDANCE

THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR COUNCILLORS (FOR ATTENDANCE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE U.K.) AND FOR EMPLOYEES (OUTSIDE THE U.K. ONLY OR, IF ACCOMPANYING A COUNCILLOR, INSIDE THE UK)

1. Title of Conference	Local Government Association – Annual Conference and Exhibition 2010
2. Organising Body	Local Government Association
3. Location	Bournemouth
4. Date(s)	6 – 8 July 2010
5. Councillor(s) recommended to attend	5 Councillors – Cllrs Lucas, Kelly, Abbott, Taylor and Foster (3 Labour, 2 Conservative)
6. Employee(s) recommended to attend	
7. Cost per person, including travel, etc (Note: If total cost is less than £100, formal Cabinet/Cabinet Member approval is not required)	£519 per person for conference £115 accommodation pppn – b & b Cost of accommodation for Councillor Lucas being met by LGA Labour Group. One member requires accommodation for three nights, the others for two. Train travel is based on any time return of £131 per person. Cheaper tickets will be obtained if possible. Total cost of conference £2595 Total cost of accommodation £1035 Total cost of travel £655
8. Is participation at this event as part of a group	YES
9. If so, how many people IN TOTAL will be attending the event as part of that group	5
10. Is there anyone travelling with the Member, officer or group in relation to whom any of the costs of travel, accommodation or any other expense will be paid for by a Member or officer. If "YES" please state number.	NO
11. Source of Funding (FIS Code)	Conference cost Accommodation cost
12. What are the reasons for attendance and what benefits to the City Council	The conference is entitled Changing Times, Changing Minds. Given the changes in administration both nationally and at a local

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Decision APPROVED / NOT APPROVED	Cabinet Member/Cabinet Date:
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Notification to:	<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>DATE</u>
(a) Officer responsible for booking conference		
(b) Councillor attending		
(c) Member of Management Board		
(d) Members' Services		
(e) Committee Officer		

Date report back obtained	
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Date of meeting of Scrutiny to receive report back	
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