



Coventry City Council

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Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

5th October 2011

REPORT OF: Councillor Mrs Ann Lucas

TITLE: Local Government Association Annual Conference

DATE: 28th – 30th June 2011

VENUE: ICC, Birmingham

1. Recommendation

1.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is asked to note the report setting out the benefits of attending the Local Government Association Conference 2011.

2. Background

2.1 Coventry City Council is 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 2011 conference took place with the context of the coalition government unprecedented cuts in finance to Local Government, rising unemployment and increased demand on services.

2.4 The conference was attended by Councillor Lucas, Councillor Walsh, Councillor Chater, Councillor Blundell and Councillor Taylor.

3. Cost of attending

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees*		£1980 (4 x £419 ex. VAT)
Flights		NIL
Additional Travel Expenses		£99
Accommodation		NIL
Subsistence		NIL

*Councillor Lucas's costs were funded by the LGA

4. Benefits

The conference was entitled 'Localism Works' and asked how the role of government should be defined in this 'Brave New World'; as the body for local leadership, a commissioning hub, an information centre for stimulating local activity or all of the above.

- 4.1** For the first time conference was addressed by the leaders of all three major political parties and lively Question & Answer sessions followed, as is to be expected at an all party conference.
- 4.2** There were also opportunities to promote the city's interest and lobby central government, including both cabinet ministers and the shadow cabinet ministers.
- 4.3** Best practice was widely shared with both elected members and officers. An example is the contact with authorities who have completed their first Domestic Homicide Review; with their freely given help and advice, substantial costs to Coventry may be avoided.
- 4.4** The plenary sessions, workshops and the events at the conference allowed the delegation to play a meaningful part in the debates on the theme of the conference (Localism Works).

List of background papers

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Papers open to public inspection

Description of paper: Report Back on Conference/Seminar

Location: CH60

Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member on: