

report



meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – URGENCY SUB COMMITTEE**

date **25 MAY 2010**

agenda item number

5(a)

MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL, YORK UNIVERSITY, 3-7 SEPTEMBER 2010

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the attendance of two Members of the Planning and Licensing Committee at the Planning Summer School.

Information and Advice

2. Members will be aware that over the last few years approval has been given to attendance at the Planning Summer School organised by the Royal Town Planning Institute.
3. This year's Summer School will be held at the University of York. Elected Members School runs from 3 September to 7 September 2010.
4. The full programme of events and speakers is yet to be finalised, but it is likely to include sessions on disparities in society, living in a low energy world and delivering value for the rural economy. Workshops will cover sound decision making, community engagement, and, unusually and importantly, Waste Planning.
5. Planning Summer School is an opportunity for Planning and Licensing Committee Members to be informed about best practice across a wide spectrum of activities, as well as offering Members an almost unique opportunity to discuss relevant planning matters with their peers from other Local Planning Authorities up and down the country.
6. Any Members who attend should produce a written report for discussion at Planning and Licensing Committee at the first available meeting after the school. Attendance at Summer School, and the subsequent sharing of the information with the entire Committee, can be looked upon as part of the on-going initiative on Member training.

7. Costs should be no more than £779 per place (as this is a residential course, this sum includes conference fee, accommodation and meals). In addition, it is anticipated that travel costs will be around £100 per Member.
8. Planning and Licensing Committee considered this issue at its meeting on 13 April 2010 and agreed to support a proposal for two Members of that Committee to attend this event. During discussions, Members commended the value of the event in terms of awareness-raising, member development and sharing best practice. It was also felt that if particular workshops did prove to be useful then the presenters could be asked to provide training to all Members at County Hall.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the attendance of two Members of the Planning and Licensing Committee at the Planning Summer School to be held at York University from 3 September to 7 September 2010.

TIM MALYNN

Corporate Director (Communities)

Comments of the Service Director - Finance

Any costs for travel and subsistence should be shared equally by Members' Services and Development Planning as in previous years. [DJK – 14/05/10]

Legal Services' Comments (SLB 12/05/2010)

The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of paragraph 10.2 of the Delegation to Administration Committee, which authorises the Committee to approve expenditure to be incurred for Member attendance at conferences and seminars, and associated travel and accommodation costs.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Conference details

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All