

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to seek approval for relevant Member and officer attendance at the County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Conference to be held in Guildford, Surrey from 17-19 November 2019.

Information and Advice

2. This Committee's terms of reference include approving councillors' attendance at conferences for which fees are payable. It is proposed that approval be given for the Leader, Deputy Leader and Leader of the Main Opposition Group to attend the annual CCN Conference, along with one chief officer.
3. The conference is organised by the CCN which is a cross-party special interest group of the Local Government Association which speaks, develops policy and shares best practice for the County family of local authorities. The benefits of attending the Conference are that it is a key forum for county councils and county unitary authorities to share good practice and to hear from Government Ministers and sector leaders.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. It is recommended that approval is given for attendance at the conference so that the County Council's representatives can continue to share best practice and network with colleagues, MPs and other partners in related fields.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

8. The costs of the event for 2019 have yet to be confirmed by CCN but they are likely to be similar to last year's costs of £700 plus VAT per delegate, including accommodation at the venue (there will also be costs relating to travel to and from the event). The online booking opens in July 2019 and should the costs increase significantly then an update report will be brought back to this Committee for approval.
9. The costs of conference attendance, accommodation and travel for the Leader, Deputy Leader and Leader of the Main Opposition Group will be met from the budget for Members' Conferences for which there is an allocation of £6,000 in 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATION

That, subject to the costs of this year's event not significantly increasing, approval be given for the Leader, Deputy Leader and Leader of the Main Opposition Group and one Chief Officer to attend the County Councils Network's Annual Conference in Guildford, Surrey from 17-19 November 2019, together with any necessary travel and accommodation arrangements.

**COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS MBE
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Keith Ford, Team Manager, Democratic Services, Tel 0115 9772590

Constitutional Comments (SLB – 29/05/19)

10. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (RWK 03/06/2019)

11. The cost of 3 Members attending the CCN Annual Conference is estimated at around £2,100. This cost can be met from the budget of £6,000 for Members conferences.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- CCN Annual Conference Website page
<https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/conference-and-events/ccn-conference/>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All