

REPORT OF THE TEAM MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE 19TH & 20TH
NOVEMBER 2012****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the attendance of Councillor Mrs K Cutts and Councillor M Suthers OBE DL and the Chief Executive at the County Councils Network Annual Conference being held in Staffordshire on 19th and 20th November 2012.

Information and Advice

2. The County Councils Network (CCN) 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, whether unitary or upper tier. It is a cross party organisation whose views carry particular weight for a large proportion of the country outside the big conurbations: CCN's 36 member councils, with over 2,500 Councillors, serve 23 million people or 47% of the population over 44 thousand square miles or 85% of England.
3. The annual conference is a key event in the CCN calendar and aims to be informative, challenging, topical and enjoyable. The conference brings together members and officers over a two day period providing a unique opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing local government, to share experience and find solutions to common issues.
4. The Conference this year will focus on a range of key issues for member authorities, and will also feature a number of workshops to enable delegates to share learning from the experience of member authorities. There will also be an excellent line up of plenary speakers including a number of Government Ministers.
5. The conference fees are set out below:-

Delegate fee including accommodation and meals	£324.00
Travel by private motor vehicle	£ 60.00

It is intended to travel together in one car.

The cost of 2 Members attendance is estimated at £708 which can be met from the Members' conference expenses.

The total cost for member and officer attendance at the Annual Conference is £1032 based on the fees set out above. The cost for officer attendance will be met from the budget for staff conference fees within the Policy, Planning and Corporate Services department.

Other Options Considered

- 6 The Committee could decide not to approve attendance at the CCN Conference.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 7 To enable the Council to be represented appropriately at the County Councils Network Annual Conference.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- 8 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That approval be given for Councillor Mrs K Cutts and Councillor M Suthers OBE DL to attend the County Councils Network Annual Conference on 19th & 20th November 2012.

Chris Holmes
Team Manager Democratic Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/09/2012)

9. Administration Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for approving all Councillor attendance at conferences, seminars and training events, including any expenditure incurred.

Financial Comments (MB 07/09/12)

10. The cost can be met from the 2012/13 budget for Members conference expenses.

Background Papers

11. Conference booklet

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected
All