

meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

date **13 JULY 2011**

agenda item number

6 (b)

MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL, SWANSEA UNIVERSITY, 3-5 SEPTEMBER 2011

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the attendance of a Member 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 for attendance at the Planning Summer School organised by the Royal Town Planning Institute.
3. This year's Summer School will be held at Swansea University and the Elected Members School runs from 3 September to 5 September 2011.
4. The programme of events is themed around 'Planning for Communities' and will include sessions on the role of Elected Members; a Planning Law update; Probity in the pre application process; Neighbourhood Plans; Strategic Infrastructure; Community Engagement; Energy Efficient Design and Working with Communities. As usual there will be a choice of mobile workshops studying regeneration and partnership working in the locality.
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 and experiences 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. The feedback paper from last year's event held at York University is attached for information at Appendix 1.

7. Costs are £779 per place plus VAT (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 10 May 2011 and agreed to support a proposal for up to two Members of that Committee to attend this year's event. During discussions, Members commended the value of the event in terms of awareness-raising, Member development and sharing best practice. One Member is available to attend this year's event.

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 one Member of the Planning and Licensing Committee at the Planning Summer School to be held at Swansea University from 3 September to 5 September 2011.

SALLY GILL

Acting Group Manager Planning

Comments of the Service Director – Finance

The cost can be met from the 2011/12 budget for Members Training. (MB 29/06/11)

Legal Services' Comments

Committee have power to decide the Recommendation [SHB.28/06/11].

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Conference details: www.planningsummerschool.org

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All