

meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

date **28 JULY 2010**

agenda item **4(d)**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE MANAGER MEMBER SUPPORT
WESTMINSTER BRIEFING CONFERENCE – THE FUTURE POLICY
LANDSCAPE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT 16TH NOVEMBER 2010,
LONDON**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the attendance of Councillor A Rhodes at the Westminster Briefing, The Future Policy Landscape for Local Government in London on 16th November 2010.

2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 There is likely to be an age of austerity for local government funding with the announcement of £1.165bn of cuts in grants, yet potentially there could be new freedoms for councils in terms of how they raise finances and use their resources. The new Coalition Government has talked of radical decentralisation and a commitment to a 'new localism', part of which is a proposed 'general power of competence', allowing councils to look to their communities rather than up to Whitehall. So with the potential for more power with more accountability, and the confirmation that there will soon be a full review into local government finance, what does the future hold for local government?

This Westminster Briefing Conference will give delegates the opportunity to discuss and be informed on the future for local government policy over the course of the next parliament from both the Government and experts in the field. Participants will debate the key issues and opportunities facing local authorities over the coming years in terms of service delivery, funding and finance, structural reform and community engagement and empowerment.

- 2.2 Councillor Rhodes would like to attend the seminar in his capacity as Leader of the Main Minority Group to discuss the future of Local Government and the challenges Local Government will face.

- 2.3 The cost of attendance is estimated as:-

Seminar fee	£295.00
Travel Stand class rail at peak time)	<u>£153.00</u>
Total	£448.00

These costs can be met from Members' Allowance budget.

3. Statutory and Policy Implications

- 3.1 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder, human rights and those using the relevant service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That consideration be given for granting approval for Councillor A Rhodes to attend The Westminster Briefing 'The Future Policy Landscape for Local Government'

Legal Services' Comments (SLB 25/06/2010)

The Administration Committee is responsible for approving expenditure to be incurred for Member attendance at conferences and seminars including expenditure on travel, accommodation and associated costs. The proposal in this report, insofar as it is in accordance with the Council's Travel and Accommodation Policy, is within the remit of this Committee.

Comments of the Service Director Finance

The financial implications are outlined in the report. (MB 12/03/10)

Background Papers available for inspection

Conference Leaflet

Electoral Divisions Affected

All.