



**23 May 2013**

**Agenda Item: 11**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR POLICY, PLANNING AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES**

**ATTENDANCE AT PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek the views of the Committee on the attendance of a Member at this year's Planning Summer School.

**Information and Advice**

2. Members will be aware that over previous years approval has been given for attendance at the Planning Summer School organised in partnership with the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI):
3. This year's Summer School, as highlighted at the last Committee meeting, is to be held at Leeds University and is scheduled to run from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (from 1pm) to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (closing after lunch).
4. This year's event, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, promotes last year's collaborative approach for Elected Members and professional planning practitioners. This year's theme is Planning for Prosperity which encompasses not just growth but how planning must play a role in creating, delivering and maintaining the conditions for economic, social and environmental prosperity. In line with previous events the programme will involve a mix of addresses, seminars, workshops, debates and local study tours.
5. The opening address is to be delivered by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor whilst other speakers include Clive Dutton OBE (London Borough of Newham), Neil Sinden (Council for the Protection of Rural England), Katherine Knox (Joseph Rowntree Foundation) and Peter Burley (Chief Inspector, The Planning Inspectorate). The closing address is to be given by Peter Geraghty, RTPI President. Full details of the programme can be viewed on line at [www.planningsummerschool.org](http://www.planningsummerschool.org)
6. Planning Summer School is an opportunity to be informed about best practice across a diverse spectrum of activities as well as offering attendees a rare opportunity to discuss relevant planning issues with their peers from other Planning Authorities up and down the country.

7. Members are asked to consider whether they wish to send a representative to this year's Summer School. If so, it is suggested that consideration also be given to identifying a reserve attendee to ensure that any committed place is not lost as a result of unforeseen events. Those who attend are expected to produce a written report for discussion at a future Committee meeting to ensure that key information is shared with the entire Committee and can be looked upon as part of the on-going initiative on Member training.
8. The standard cost would be £895 plus VAT (as this is a residential course, the sum includes conference fee, en-suite accommodation and meals). However an early bird rate of £840 plus VAT is available for payments made by 30 June 2013. In addition there would be associated travel costs estimated as being approximately £35.00. In line with previous years, costs associated with attending are to be met by the training budget for Members.
9. In accordance with the Constitution, approval of conference attendance is required from Administration Committee. A report will be prepared should Committee wish to send a representative. It is noted that agreement for approval of attendance from Administration Committee in 2011 was on the basis that it excluded Members who had attended the event in the previous two years. It is assumed that any approval by Administration Committee would be subject to the same restriction.

#### **Other Options Considered**

10. The alternative would be to opt to not send a representative. Whilst such a course of action would clearly save the costs associated with attending this event, it remains important for Members to keep abreast of issues in the sphere of planning and this event provides a rare opportunity for networking and sharing best practice with peers elsewhere in the country.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

12. It is RECOMMENDED that Committee consider the attendance of a Member and substitute at this year's Planning Summer School at Leeds University between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**JAYNE FRANCIS-WARD**

**Corporate Director for Policy, Planning and Corporate Services**

### **Constitutional Comments**

13. Committee have power to decide this Recommendation. [SHB 09.05.13]

### **Comments of the Service Director - Finance**

14. The financial implications are highlighted in the report; the costs will be met from the Members training budget. [DJK 09.05.13]

### **Background Papers Available for Inspection**

Conference details – [www.planningsummerschool.org](http://www.planningsummerschool.org)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All

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For any enquiries about this report, please contact the report author.

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PSP.JS/EP5369/PAB

9 May 2013