

# report



meeting	Administration Committee	
date	16 February 2005	agenda item number

## REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBERS SERVICES

### COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To present details of the latest position in respect of participation in The Warwick MPA by Councillors Mick Warner and Joyce Bosnjak

#### 2. Information and Advice

Under the policies and precedents that existed at that time, approval was given by this Committee on 31 May 2002 for Councillors Mick Warner and Joyce Bosnjak to participate in the Masters in Public Administration Course provided by the University of Warwick.

The Committee was informed that the course is a 3-year modular qualification and that the fees were £5,300 a year for each student. This meant that the total cost (excluding travel, accommodation and subsistence during each module) was £15,900 per person at 2002 costs. The Committee was also advised that any travel accommodation and subsistence costs would be in addition to this sum and would be funded separately from the Members travel and subsistence budgets.

In the event that Councillors Mick Warner and Joyce Bosnjak applications to participate in the Masters in Public Administration Course were successful the Committee gave approval for the necessary funding to be found from the Members Training budget. Following the Committee's decision, Councillors Warner and Bosnjak successfully applied for places and started the course in September 2002. In accordance with the information to administration committee that this is a 3 year course they should both finish at the end of this academic year , i.e. summer/July 2005.

Both Councillor Warner and Councillor Bosnjak have indicated that they will complete this course within the timeframe reported to Administration Committee.

### **3. Statutory and Policy Implications**

This report is necessary to ensure compliance with the Council's Travel and Accommodation policy and current arrangements for approving attendance at conferences, seminars and Member Training events.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee notes the report

#### **Legal Services' Comments [EB 04.02.05]**

This report is intended to clarify the position in relation to the costs associated with the attendance on the Warwick MPA by Councillors Warner and Bosnjak. The approval of funding for the Warwick MPA is that given by this Committee in May 2002 and November 2003. The course fees were approved on 31 May 2002 without conditions (save that it was noted that there was the possibility of a bursary). However the approval was on the basis that the course would be completed by the end of the academic year 2004/2005. In particular the approval of Administration Committee on 31 May 2002 did not require reimbursement of any element of the course fees that notionally could be apportioned to a period of the course that occurs after the date of local elections in May 2005 the event that either Councillors Warner or Bosnjak are not re-elected to serve as County Councillors.

Summary of the position:

If Councillors Warner and Bosnjak complete the course within the time frame reported to this Committee in May 2002 no additional approvals are required in respect of course fees.

In the event that Councillors Warner or Bosnjak are not re-elected to serve as County Councillors any additional costs associated with completing the course incurred after the elections (including any travel or subsistence costs and/or costs connected with an extension of time) must be met by the Councillors personally as the County Council has no legal powers to meet any such costs.

In the event that Councillors Warner or Bosnjak do not complete the course within the timescales reported to Administration Committee in May 2002 and as a consequence additional course fees are incurred Administration Committee can only authorise these if Councillors Warner and Bosnjak are serving Councillors and only after consideration of and in accordance with relevant policies.

**Head of Resources' Financial Comments (MB)**

Provision was made for the final fee payment in the 2004/05 budget for Members Training. In the event of additional fees being incurred, these will have to be met from the 2005/06 budget for Members Training.

**Background Papers Available for Public Inspection**

None

**Electoral Division(s) Affected**

All