



Meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Date **13 July 2009**

agenda item number **5(a)**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY

ATTENDANCE AT 2009 PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the request from the Planning and Licensing Committee for approval for Members of the Committee to attend the annual Planning Summer School organised by the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Information and Advice

2. On 23 April 2008, the Administration Committee approved the attendance of all Members of the Planning and Licensing Committee at the 2008 Planning Summer School held on 29th August – 2nd September at the University of St. Andrews.
3. This year's Summer School will be held at Exeter University on the 4th – 8th September 2009.
4. The full programme of events and speakers is yet to be finalised, but it is likely to include sessions on political propriety, the value of tourism to economic development and rural pressures and the sustainability of the rural economy. Workshops will cover a variety of topics, including updates on legal and practice matters.
5. Planning Summer School is an opportunity 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 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 on as part of the on-going initiative on member training.

7. Cost will be approximately £779 per place (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 £150 per member.
8. In accordance with the revised Constitution, the responsibility for approving conference attendance rests with the Administration Committee. The Planning and Licensing Committee at its meeting on 19 May 2009 supported the attendance of Members at the Summer School.

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 and where such implications are material they have been described in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

10. That consideration be given to the approval of attendance of 2 Members of the Planning and Licensing Committee at the Planning Summer School to be held on 4th – 8th September 2009 at Exeter University.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (MB – 02/07/09))

The cost of Member attendance at the Planning Summer School will be met from the Members' Training & Development budget within the Leader's portfolio.

Legal Services Comments (KS – 01/07/09)

The Administration Committee has authority to approve expenditure incurred for Member attendance at conference and seminars, and for accommodation, travel and associated costs.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Conference details.

Electoral Divisions Affected

All.