



meeting      **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

date            **18 FEBRUARY 2004**

agenda item number

## **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES**

### **DELIVERING PLANNING – LGA/NATIONAL PLANNING FORUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 2 – 3 MARCH 2004**

#### **1.     Purpose of the Report**

To approve attendance at the above annual conference to be held next month at the Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall, London.

#### **2.     Information and Advice**

2.1    This is the first Annual Conference to be held by the LGA and the National Planning Forum. The two organisations are committed, with partners, to improve the culture of planning by redefining perceptions of planning so that the subject is seen in more positive terms central to delivering successful development of the Country's communities, economies and the wider environment.

2.2    The Conference aims to highlight and reinforce the positive and creative work that planners undertake and confirm the relevance of planning to the Government's agenda of modernisation and reform.

2.3    Key themes to be covered by the conference include

Education (training, skills and recruitment), the training and development of Members, best practice, image and mainstreaming and performance and delivery. Speakers and contributors to the Conference will be drawn from a variety of backgrounds including the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Planning Inspectorate as well as Local Authorities.

2.4    The cost of attendance at the Conference, including conference fee, travel and subsistence is estimated to be £550 per Member.

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

- 3.1 Member attendance at conferences is a matter for this Committee acting under the Conference and Travel policy. Access and safety requirements will be taken into account when booking accommodation the subjects to be discussed at the conference will be relevant to the learning and development of Members of the Planning Committee.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1.1 That Councillor John Bell, Chair of the Planning Committee, be authorised to attend the above conference.

**P A MAYFIELD  
HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES**

#### **Head of Legal Services' Comments (KK)**

The Administration Committee is responsible for approving the attendance of Members at conferences and seminars. The proposal in this report is therefore within the remit of this Committee.

#### **Director of Resources' Financial Comments (R/MB)**

The cost of the conference can be met from the 2003/04 budget for Members' conference expenses.

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

Letter and Conference programme from the LGA.

#### **Electoral Divisions Affected**

All.