

# report



meeting	Administration Committee	
date	21 September 2005	agenda item number

## REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE 4<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006

#### Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for attendance at the Local Government Association's Annual Conference and Exhibition 4 – 7 July 2006 in Bournemouth.

#### Information and Advice

2. The County Council is a member of the LGA, which aims at improving life in local communities. Each year, the LGA holds a number of conferences on a range of issues of interest to local authorities. The annual conference, which is the main conference event in the business year, is open to representatives of all member authorities. It aims to provide the opportunity to hear from local and central government figures on issues which affect the whole community. It also enables information sharing, promotion of local and national initiatives, learning opportunities for those who attend, through conference sessions and the ability to network effectively with representatives across the whole spectrum of local authority public service.

#### Reasons for Attendance

- 2.2 Next year the conference will focus on:
  - local leadership
  - local devolution
  - local improvement

- 2.3 Local government is committed to local leadership, to building on the track record to deliver further improvements in services and the LGA is committed to devolution – beyond the town hall, to neighbourhoods and communities.
- 2.4 With the right tools, councils can deliver cleaner and greener neighbourhoods, cut crime and improve the health of local communities.
- 2.5 It has been the Council's practise to permit attendance at this important conference by its representatives on the LGA; the Leader of the main minority group and the Chief Executive.

**Travel and Accommodation Requirements**

- 3. The County Council's representatives will require hotel accommodation, rail fare etc.

- 3.1 The costs associated with the event are as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>To be met from</b>
Conference fee	2970.00	Members Conferences Budget
Accommodation	2760.00	Members Conferences Budget
Travel	950.00	Members Conferences Budget
Subsistence	100.00	Members Conferences Budget

- 3.2 The travelling expenses shown are for standard class rail.
- 3.3 The figures shown for accommodation are in respect of rooms at a hotel located within a reasonable distance from the event.

**Statutory and Policy Implications**

- 4. 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. The needs of individual travellers will have been considered when compiling the report and, where departures from the policy are recommended, Members should consider the reason given.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5. That approval be given for the attendance of five Councillors plus one Officer at the LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held in Bournemouth 4 – 7 July 2006.

**PATRICIA HOLT-MURPHY  
HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES**

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

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 in relation to Members attendance at the conference. Approval for officer attendance is a departmental matter.

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

The estimated cost of the conference is £6,780. This will be taken into account when producing the 2006/07 budget for Members Conference Expenses.

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

Conference leaflet.

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

All.