



meeting	Administration Committee	
date	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	agenda item number

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

### **DELIVERING VALUE FOR MONEY – COST EFFECTIVE WAYS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE BETTER QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2006 CENTRAL LONDON**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval for

- (a) attendance at/participation in Delivering Value for Money – Cost Effective Ways for Local Government to Provide Better Quality Public Services Conference in Central London 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006.
- (b) the travel, accommodation necessary in connection with the event.

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

Under the Travel and Accommodation Policy and other arrangements approved by the full Council on 7 October 2004, the Administration Committee is the appropriate body for considering/approving attendance at a range of events and the travel and accommodation requirements arising therefrom.

This report describes a proposal which is within the Committee's decision-making powers but which cannot be considered at a scheduled meeting of the Committee. The Chief Executive has the power to take a decision in urgent cases, subject to consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Administration Committee and the Leader of the main Minority Group.

You are asked to consider whether attendance at the event should be approved (inc number of representatives), together with any necessary travel, accommodation or other arrangements.

The information included within the following sections of the report should ensure compliance with normal decision-making rules. If attendance is

approved, the details referred to below will be used to compile the public Register, which is available on the Council's web-site. Details of the decision will also be included with the papers for the next convenient meeting of the Administration Committee.

### **3. Reasons for considering the proposal within urgency procedures**

The date of the event was confirmed on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2006 outside scheduled meetings of the Administration Committee.

### **4. Reasons for attendance**

The Delivering Value for Money Conference takes place in Central London on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006. Approval is sought for one Member of the Labour Group to attend for the following reasons.

Approval is sought for (who) to attend for the following reasons:-

- Hear the latest policies and key priorities on value for money local government services
- Discover how to integrate value for money across finance, performance and corporate strategy
- Learn from the ODPM what the future holds for inspections
- Discover how your investment in better customer services can transform services and save you money
- Determine how to demonstrate a value for money culture.

### **5. Travel and Accommodation requirements**

The County Council's representative(s) will require (hotel accommodation, rail/air travel etc).

The costs associated with each person's attendance at the event are as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>To be met from</b>
Conference or event fee	£350.00	Members' Allowances Budget
Travelling expenses	£110.00	Members' Allowances Budget
Accommodation	£115.00	Members' Allowances Budget
Subsistence	£ 16.24	Members' Allowances Budget
Insurance	£	
Other (describe)		

The total cost to the Council would therefore be £591.24.

The travelling expenses shown above are for standard class rail travel.

The figures shown for accommodation are in respect of rooms at a hotel located within a reasonable distance from the event.

## **6. 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. The needs of individual travellers will have been considered when compiling the report and, where departures from the policy are recommended, consideration should be given to the reasons given.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That approval be given for one Member to attend Delivering Value for Money – Cost Effective Ways for Local Government to Provide Better Quality Public Services on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006 in London.

**P A 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.

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

The financial implications are outlined in the report.

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

E-mail request from Councillor J O'Riordan dated 20 April 2006.

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

Committee/Administration/urgent approvals/Travel and Accommodation Policy/00r\_Cost Effective Ways for LG to Provide Better Quality Public Services.doc