

# Council Business Committee

## Attendance on Training Courses and Developmental Conferences and Seminars

### Supplementary Report of the Head of Democratic Services 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise of a recent decision by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Democratic Services.

This report is public

#### 1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That the transfer of £3,700 from the budget for Members' Conferences to the Member Training Budget together with requests for attendance at Conferences or Seminars where attendance is for the developmental benefit of an individual Councillor be noted.

(2) That the annual attendance at the following conferences be approved from the Member Training Budget subject to the application of criteria agreed by this Committee, future evaluation and continued relevance of the conference content:

N W E O Scrutiny Conference (or similar)	Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny
Standards Board	Chairman of Standards
Planning Summer School	Chairman of Planning
Regeneration & Renewal National Conference	Relevant Cabinet Member (s)
Northern Regeneration & Renewal Conference	Relevant Cabinet Member (s)

(3) That Members attending conferences provide a report on their return to be available to other interested Members and to be used in reviewing the value of that conference for future years in line with recommendation (2) of the original report.

#### 2.0 Report

2.1 Since the publication of the agenda, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Democratic Services has considered the future position with regard to the allocation of funding from the Members' Conference budget.

2.2 The decision set out below was published on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008, for implementation on 27<sup>th</sup> June subject to there being no call in of the decision in the meantime:

- (1) *That the continuing attendance of the Leader and Leader of another Group on rotation at the LGA Conference on an annual basis be approved, to be funded from the Members conference budget, at an estimated cost of £2,000.*
- (2) *That the remaining budget of £3,700 be transferred to the Member Training Budget and remaining requests for attendance at Conferences or Seminars where attendance is for the developmental benefit of an individual Councillor be referred to the Head of Democratic Services for determination in accordance with the scheme for approving Member training agreed by the Council Business Committee with the recommendation that the following be approved on an annual basis:*

<i>N W E O Scrutiny Conference (or similar)</i>	<i>Chairman of Overview &amp; Scrutiny</i>
<i>Standards Board</i>	<i>Chairman of Standards</i>
<i>Planning Summer School</i>	<i>Chairman of Planning</i>
<i>Regeneration &amp; Renewal National Conference</i>	<i>Relevant Cabinet Member (s)</i>
<i>Northern Regeneration &amp; Renewal Conference</i>	<i>Relevant Cabinet Member (s)</i>

- (3) *That the Head of Financial Services update the revenue budget accordingly, together with future years budgets as part of the 2009/10 budget process.*
- (4) *That the Council Business Committee be recommended to introduce a requirement that Members attending conferences provide a report on their return to be available to other interested Members and to be used in reviewing the value of that conference for future years.*

2.3 The decision confirms future attendance at the annual LGA conference which has been identified as having a continued wide benefit to the Council and at the same time acknowledges that attendance at other conferences and seminars can be of individual benefit in the development of Councillors in a particular role and that it would therefore be more relevant for these to be treated as part of the Council's Member Development programme and attendance agreed in accordance with the criteria set for this process and the priorities stated in the Member Development Strategy, allowing the budget to be appropriately managed and prioritised against spending on other forms of training and development.

2.4 This Committee is therefore requested to note the additional funds which will be transferred to the Member Training budget together with the additional commitment to consider requests for attendance at any conferences as part of the Member Development programme.

2.5 This makes no difference to the recommendations in the original report but Members are requested to also consider the additional recommendations set out in paragraph one of this report.

**RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

None

**CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

None

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications set out in the original report are essentially unchanged. The result of the Cabinet decision is that the budget for Member training and development will be increased to £14,400. However there will be additional calls on this budget by way of requests to attend developmental conferences and seminars which were previously funded by the Members Conferences budget.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**Contact Officer:** Gillian Noall

**Telephone:** 01524 582060

**E-mail:** [gnoall@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:gnoall@lancaster.gov.uk)