

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 24 FEBRUARY 2015
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall the report considered by Council on 5 December 2012 that Members' attendance at conferences and seminars be delegated to the Chief Governance Officer where the cost does not exceed £200. For conferences and seminars exceeding £200 approval requires to be sought from the Executive.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Member attendance at a forthcoming conference for which the full delegate fee, per person, is £375 plus VAT.

2 REQUEST TO ATTEND COSLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 2.1 A request has been received from Councillor Meiklejohn, Leader of the Opposition, to attend the annual COSLA conference which will be held in the Crieff Hydro Hotel on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 March 2015. As previously stated, the full delegate fee for attendance at this event is £375 exclusive of VAT.
- 2.2 There has been a pattern of attendance by Falkirk Council Members at this event over recent years, and last year Councillors Gow and Meiklejohn attended the conference on both days with Depute Provost Patrick attending the conference on one day only.
- 2.3 The Council is currently represented on the Convention by Depute Provost Patrick and Councillors Alexander, Gow and C Martin. Councillor Meiklejohn routinely attends Convention meetings on behalf of Councillor Alexander.
- 2.4 Attendance at the conference is in accordance with Members' approved duties, as defined in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3 FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost can be met from existing budgetary provision. Of the £10,130 in the 2014/15 budget for Members' development and training, £498 has been spent to date.

3.2 Details of Members' attendance at conferences and seminars, together with associated costs, are reported annually, as required by The Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 and guidance issued by the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC). Details of attendance at COSLA annual conferences from 2010/11 to 2013/14 are available on the Council website.

3.3 No equality implications arise from this request.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Executive is invited to consider the request from Councillor Meiklejohn to attend the annual COSLA conference to be held in the Crieff Hydro Hotel on 12 and 13 March 2015, at a cost of £375 plus VAT.

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CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

Date: 20 February 2015

Contact Officer: Harry Forster, Members Services Administrator (Ext. 6152)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.