

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL**  
**Meeting: EXECUTIVE**  
**Date: 18 MARCH 2014**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Members will recall the report considered by Council on 5 December 2012 in relation to Members' Learning and Development included Members' attendance at courses and seminars.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Member attendance at a forthcoming conference for which the delegate fee, per person, is £395+VAT.

**2. REQUEST TO ATTEND FRACKING CONFERENCE**

- 2.1 A request has been received from Baillie Buchanan to attend a conference on Fracking: The Debate on Hydraulic Fracturing for Gas which will be held in the Mermaid Conference Centre, London on Monday 19 May 2014. As previously stated the full delegate fee for attendance at this event is £395 exclusive of VAT.
- 2.2 The conference is being run by Living with Environmental Change which is a partnership of 22 major UK public sector funders and users of environmental research including the research councils and central government departments.

**3. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost of the proposed attendance by Baillie Buchanan can be met from the existing budgetary provision of £10,130 in the 2013/14 budget. To date, £1902 has been spent.
- 3.2 In addition, travel, accommodation and subsistence will be incurred and arrangements will be made following approval of attendance. All arrangements made will be in line with the Local Government (Allowances and Expenses) (Scotland) Regulations 2007.
- 3.3 Details of Members' attendance at conferences and seminars together with associated costs are reported annually online.

**4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Members are invited to consider the request from Councillor Buchanan to attend the Fracking: The Debate on Hydraulic Fracturing for Gas Conference to be held at the Mermaid Conference Centre, London on 19 May, 2014, at a cost of £395 per person, plus VAT.**

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**Chief Governance Officer**

**Date: 7 March 2014**

**Contact Officer: Dale Robb, Business and Members' Services Manager (Ext 6111)**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**None**