

REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 23 AUGUST 2018

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT THE CONFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGIONS OF EUROPE (ENCORE) AND THE INSHORE FISHERIES CONFERENCE

1 Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve the attendance of and nominate one Elected Member to attend the 13th ENCORE Conference, Denmark; and**
- 1.2 Approve the attendance of and nominate one Elected Member to attend the Inshore Fisheries Conference in Inverness on 5 October.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1.1 Aberdeenshire Council is a member of the North Sea Commission (NSC), an international partnership of regional and local authorities. The NSC operates four working groups including an Energy and Climate Change working group to which Councillor Davidson has been appointed to represent the Council. An invitation was sent to members of the working group to attend the 13th Conference of Environmental Regions of Europe (ENCORE). Councillor Davidson wishes to accept this invitation and attend the event.
- 2.1.2 A draft programme for the event, which is to take place in Herning, Denmark from 20 to 22 September 2018 is set out at Appendix 1 to this report. The event is to focus on the themes of the circular economy, climate challenges and eco systems. It is recommended that one Elected Member and one officer attend the event.
- 2.2.1 Organised by Marine Scotland, the first Inshore Fisheries Conference was held in 2013. It has since developed into an annual event attracting senior representatives from across the wider fisheries sector, making it a very useful event for networking, information exchange and dissemination of exemplar projects and best practice.
- 2.2.2. The Chair of Fisheries Working Group has expressed a wish to attend the conference at Eden Court, Inverness on 5 October and the ministerial reception on the evening of 4 October. The conference is free and therefore the costs incurred will be for travel and hotel accommodation.
- 2.3 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section F.3.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the determination attendance of members of this Committee at courses and conferences within the approved budget allocation.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because attendance at this event does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 The cost of Elected Member participation at the ENCORE event is estimated to be £500 for travel and accommodation, based on estimates at the time of report drafting. The cost of attending the Inshore Fisheries Conference in Inverness is estimated at £150. This costs would be met by Page 107, Line 10 of the Council's revenue budget.
- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant at Corporate Level: Environmental challenges e.g. extreme weather events, climate change. (This includes localised risks around flooding and air pollution and the need for communities to display resilience) as set out in the Council's Corporate Risk Register. The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level: Climate Change and Reduction in Waste to landfill as set out in the Directorate Risk Registers. Learning from the event should assist the Council to mitigate the aforementioned risks.
- 4.4 A Town Centre First impact assessment is not required for this report as attendance at this event does not have an impact on town centres.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Martin Brebner and Derek McDonald, Economic Development Service
23 July 2018

APPENDIX 1 – ENCORE DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday 20 September

- 16:30-17:30 “Co-existing with wolves and bears” – An informal debate and exchange of political experiences with the challenges occurring in some regions.
- 18:30 Registration
- 19:30 Big Solutions – Local Insights: ENCORE 2018 welcome
- 19:45 Future Drivers for Change – Input and inspiration from YouthCORE
- 20:30 Wrapping up the Evening
- 20:40 Social Evening – networking and mingling

Friday 21 September

- 08:00 Registration
- 09:00 Welcome
- 09:10 Keynote speech
- 09:40 “The Name of the Game” – setting the framework for ENCORE 2018
- 10:00 Keynote: Circular Economy
- 10:30 1st Dialogue Session: Circular Economy
- 11:45 Keynote – Climate Challenges
- 12:15 2nd Dialogue Session: Climate Challenges
- 13:15 “Food for Thought“: Lunch
- 14:20 Keynote: Eco Systems Services
- 15:00 3rd Dialogue Session: Eco Systems Services
- 15:45 Next practice – wrapping up overall learnings from ENCORE 2018
- 16:00 How will Herning contribute – the Herning Declaration
- 18:00-22:00 Dinner

Saturday 22 September

Excursion from 09:00 to 15:30

Climate Adaptation & Circular Economy Show Case “Climatorium“ in the small tow of Lemvig on the West Coast. Finding solutions to climate adaptation and making a business case – and visiting enterprises who incorporate the ideals of circular economy & sustainability and profit from doing so.

