



**Corporate Policy and
Resources Committee**

11 December 2025

Subject: Member Attendance at the District Councils Network (DCN) Conference 2026 and the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference 2026

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

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Democratic and Elections Team Manager

Purpose / Summary:

The Council's Constitution (Members Allowance Scheme) states that the relevant Committee Chairman (or their nominee) can attend approved conferences.

Any places in addition to the Chairman and or nominee is subject to available budget and approval by the relevant committee.

This report seeks approval for additional Members to attend both the District Councils Network (DCN) and Local Government Association (LGA) conferences in 2026

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That two additional Member spaces be reserved at both the District Councils Network (DCN) Conference and the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference, and delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to determine which Members shall attend.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The Council's Constitution (Members Allowance Scheme) states that the relevant Committee Chairman (or their nominee) can attend approved conferences.

Any places in addition to the Chairman and or nominee is subject to available budget and approval by the relevant committee.

Financial : FIN/131/26/CPR/SL

The two additional places at the DCN conference will cost £549 (plus VAT) per person and includes overnight accommodation and meals.

The two additional places at the LGA Conference (excluding accommodation but including all meals and refreshments) will cost £549 (plus VAT), per person, if an early bird booking is made prior to 31 December or £599 (plus VAT) per person after that date.

There will also be additional costs relating to travel for both events and accommodation in respect of the LGA Conference. Accommodation and Travel bookings will be made with best value in mind.

All costs can be met from existing Member Training, Member Conference and Member Expenses and Travel budgets.

The costs for the DCN conference will be incurred during the 2025/2026 financial year, whilst those costs relating to the LGA conference will be incurred during the 2026/2027 financial year.

Staffing :

None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None

Data Protection Implications :

None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

None

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

None

Health Implications:

None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :**Risk Assessment :****Call in and Urgency:****Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes☐**No**☐**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes☐**No**☐

1. Introduction

1.1 Attendance at conferences by Members is a matter covered by the Constitution, namely the Members Allowance Scheme.

1.2 The Scheme advises, Part VI, Page 11, para 16: -

“The attendance by the appropriate Committee Chairman or his/her nominee at any of the following conferences approved by the Council –

- Chartered Institute of Housing
- Local Government Association Conference
- CIPFA Conference
- Rural Services Network Conference
- APSE conference
- DCN conference

Any conference attendance out outside the list ***or places in addition to the Chairman and or nominee is subject to available budget and approval by the relevant committee.***”

1.3 This report seeks approval for **two additional** member places to be reserved at both the DCN Conference, Thursday 19 to Friday 20 March at the De Vere Beaumont State Windsor, and the LGA Conference 7 – 9 July 2026 in Bournemouth. These are regarded as the two main conferences each year for local authorities and district councils.

2. Rationale for Additional Places and Budget Implications

2.1 Local Government is operating in an environment of significant change and challenge and over the next three years and beyond will undergo some of the most radical changes since the last major re-organisation of 1972 with the proposed reorganisation of local government.

2.2 It is important that the Council and its elected Member representatives are in position to understand, influence and effect where possible, as the Council navigates the challenges and opportunities of Local Government re-organisation, for the benefit of residents and businesses across the district.

2.3 Attendance at such events provides opportunity to build networks, share experiences, compare practice and gain experience and knowledge.

2.4 A larger number of Members attending key conferences supports an increase in Member knowledge across a wider co-hort and allows for great learning opportunities, dissemination and application of learning back into the authority.

2.5 As set out in the financial implications, no additional budget is required for the additional places, as the costs can be met from existing budgets.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That two additional Member spaces be reserved at both the District Councils Network (DCN) Conference and the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference, and delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to determine which Members shall attend.