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**To:** Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board

**On:** 14 September 2023

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**Report by:** Director of Finance and Resources

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**Heading:** Request for attendance at Conference

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 A request was received from two Councilors who expressed a wish in attending a conference “Councillors’ Guide to Understanding your Council’s Financial Reporting Requirements”.
- 1.2 The Conference took place on 24 August 2023 by way of a Webinar, and the Board is requested to homologate the actions of the Director of Finance & Resources in making the necessary arrangements for their attendance. The cost of the conference was £175 per person.
- 1.3 The conference, organised by FAN (Finance Advisory Network) workshop was designed specifically to provide local authority elected members with greater insight into the financial reporting requirements of their authority, giving them the knowledge and confidence to deliver effective engagement, scrutiny and challenge of the Statement of Accounts as part of their overall governance role.
- 1.4 The workshops also discussed the financial resilience considerations for local authorities and how the statement of accounts can assist elected members in spotting any warning signs and seeking assurance, as well as explaining the main differences between local authority accounts and the financial statements of companies.

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## **2. Recommendations**

- (a) That it be noted that two Elected Members expressed a wish to attend;
- (b) That as the Conference took place prior to the date of this meeting, the Director of Finance & Resources made the necessary arrangements for their attendance; and
- (c) That the action of the Director of Finance & Resources be homologated.

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### **Implications of the Report**

- 1. **Financial** – As stated in paragraph 1.2
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
- 3. **Community/Council Planning** – None
- 4. **Legal** - None.
- 5. **Property/Assets** - None.
- 6. **Information Technology** – None.
- 7. **Equality & Human Rights**
  - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
- 8. **Health & Safety** – None.
- 9. **Procurement** – None.
- 10. **Risk** – None.
- 11. **Privacy Impact** - None.
- 12. **Climate Risk** – None.
- 13. **Cosla Policy Position** – Not applicable.

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**List of Background Papers - None**

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