THE EXECUTIVE

2 AUGUST 2005

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ATTENDANCE AT THE SOCIETY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE	FOR DECISION

This report seeks approval for attendance at conference in accordance with the Council's Conference, Visits and Hospitality Rules, which states that the Executive must approve such attendance.

Summary

The Society of Information Technology Managers (SOCITM) has an annual conference which delivers National key messages, provides networking opportunities and at which many exhibitors in leading Information Technology attend. The Executive is asked to agree representation from the Council at this conference.

Recommendations

The Executive is asked to agree representation by two managers from the Information Management and Technology (IM&T) Division at the Society of Information Technology Managers Annual Conference on Sunday 16 October 2005 in Brighton, at an estimated cost of £1,070 plus travel. The cost of attendance will be funded from existing training and seminar budget in the IM&T Division.

Reason

The annual SOCITM conference is an opportunity for Managers in IT to network, share experiences, learn from workshops and seminars and discuss new, leading edge IT with suppliers. The conference is the main event organised by SOCITM and is attended by councils throughout the country.

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1.   Background

1.1   The Society of Information Technology Management (SOCITM) is the recognised body of Public Sector Information Technology (IT) managers, supporting members in modernisation, best value and e-government programmes. The organisation works closely with national and local government to share best practice and achieve excellence in the delivery of public services.

1.2   SOCITM holds its annual conference in October at various venues around the United Kingdom, and is a three day conference starting on Sunday 16 October 2005. This year it is at Brighton.

1.3   The event combines keynote speakers with workshops on a technical and management level with an exhibition from relevant IT software and hardware suppliers. Speakers include Ian Whatmore, Head of The Cabinet Office e-government Unit, Tony Neate from the National High Tec Crime Unit, and Lord Anthony St John of Bletso, who is focussing on Citizens on-line and digital inclusion. Workshops include Customer Access Strategy, IP telephony and Government Connect.

1.4   Members approval is therefore sought to approve the attendance of two managers from the IM&T Division at the SOCITM Autumn Conference.

2.   Financial Implications

2.1   This year's Autumn conference is being held in Brighton from 16-18 October. The cost is £535 for each delegate and includes meals and accommodation. For two delegates the cost would be £1,070 plus costs of travel. The cost of this will be funded from existing training and seminar budget in IM&T.

Background Papers

www.socitm.gov.uk/public/events/socitm+2005/default.htm