

**THE EXECUTIVE**

**20 JULY 2004**

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

<b>ATTENDANCE AT THE INSTITUTE OF REVENUES, RATINGS AND VALUATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004</b>		<b>FOR DECISION</b>
<i>This report seeks approval for attendance at the Institute of Revenues, Ratings and Valuation Annual Conference 2004 in accordance with the Council's Conferences, Visits and Hospitality Rules, which states that the Executive must approve such attendance</i>		
<b><u>Summary</u></b>		
The Executive is asked to agree representation of the Council by 2 persons at the Institute of Revenues, Ratings and Valuation (IRRV) Annual Conference and Exhibition which is to be held over a 4 –day period.		
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>		
The Executive is asked to approve attendance of the Head of Revenue Services and one other officer to attend the IRRV Annual Conference 2004.		
<b><u>Reason</u></b>		
This report is being brought to the Executive for approval as the total cost of attending the conference will exceed £1,000.		
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**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Institute of Revenues Ratings & Valuation is the professional body of Revenues & Benefits practitioners. The IRRV holds an annual conference & exhibition in different locations every year. This year it is being held in Brighton from 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2004.
- 1.2 The annual conference and exhibition is regarded as a valuable conference promoting the Institute's purpose to maximise the contributions that Revenues & Benefits practitioners can make to the well being of communities.
- 1.3 Attendance at the IRRV annual conference is an opportunity to learn about forthcoming changes and share good practice operating within the Revenues & Benefits industry. It is also an opportunity to network with Revenues & Benefits practitioners from other local authorities and central government departments. This is very much in line with the community priority of "raising general pride in the Borough"

## **2. Detail**

- 2.1 The Institute's mission is expressed through its policy work and research; the advice it gives to governmental and other agencies; its educational initiatives and promotion of standards of lifelong learning and teaching; and its national and international conferences, seminars and training programmes
- 2.2 This year's conference is based around the changes facing Revenues & Benefits practitioners in the near future. It will cover topics that include:
- ◆ The revaluations for both Council Tax & Business Rates
  - ◆ Progress on the Balance of Funding Review and the impact on Local taxation
  - ◆ Comprehensive Performance Assessment
  - ◆ Performance Improvement, Benchmarking & Use of new technology in Revenues & Benefits.
- 2.3 The conference will bring together a distinguished set of speakers and presenters with diverse expertise and backgrounds relevant to Revenues & Benefits. The programme has been put together by the IRRV with a range of partners to ensure it remains at the cutting edge of policy, practice and implementation on issues pertaining to the collection and enforcement of Local Taxation & effective and efficient Benefits Administration

## **3. Cost**

- 3.1 The conference cost is £955 plus VAT per delegate (for IRRV members) and £1,014 plus VAT per delegate (non members). This includes accommodation, but does not include travel costs or expenses relating to subsistence.
- 3.2 The Head of Revenue Services is a member of the IRRV, but it is not yet clear who the 2<sup>nd</sup> delegate will be. The higher fee will therefore be assumed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> delegate. This brings the total expenditure on delegate fees to £1,969 plus VAT.