

THE EXECUTIVE

13 SEPTEMBER 2005

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

INVITATION TO VISIT MOSCOW REGIONAL GOVERNMENT	FOR DECISION																				
<p>Summary The Executive is asked to agree that an invitation to the Head of Property Services to be part of a delegation to visit Moscow Regional Government for a week</p> <p>Wards Affected None</p> <p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial: The cost of accepting the invitation will be met from the existing budget for developing Asset Management</p> <p>Legal: None</p> <p>Risk Management There is a risk that an opportunity to identify alternative methods of implementing Asset Management is missed but this would have a minor impact.</p> <p>Social Inclusion and Diversity None arising directly from this report</p> <p>Crime and Disorder: None</p> <p>Recommendation The Executive is recommended to approve the acceptance of an invitation to the Head of Property Services to join a delegation to Moscow Regional Government from 19 – 24 September 2005 at an estimated total cost of £1,100 to be met from the existing budget for the development of asset management.</p> <p>Reason This report seeks approval to accept an invitation to join a delegation to visit Moscow Regional Government in accordance with the Council's Conferences, Visits and Hospitality Rules as the total cost will exceed the £1,000 threshold.</p>																					
<table><thead><tr><th data-bbox="145 1783 443 1816">Contact Officer:</th><th data-bbox="443 1783 807 1816">Title:</th><th colspan="2" data-bbox="807 1783 1452 1816">Contact Details</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="145 1816 443 1850">Colin Beever</td><td data-bbox="443 1816 807 1888">Head of Property Services</td><td data-bbox="807 1816 1034 1850">Tel:</td><td data-bbox="1034 1816 1452 1850">020 – 8227 3336</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td data-bbox="807 1850 1034 1883">Fax:</td><td data-bbox="1034 1850 1452 1883">020 – 8227 3223</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td data-bbox="807 1883 1034 1917">Minicom:</td><td data-bbox="1034 1883 1452 1917">020 – 8227 3034</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td data-bbox="807 1917 1034 1951">E-mail:</td><td data-bbox="1034 1917 1452 1951">colin.beever@lbbd.gov.uk</td></tr></tbody></table>		Contact Officer:	Title:	Contact Details		Colin Beever	Head of Property Services	Tel:	020 – 8227 3336			Fax:	020 – 8227 3223			Minicom:	020 – 8227 3034			E-mail:	colin.beever@lbbd.gov.uk
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Head of Asset Management at Kent County Council, Alan Phelps has carried out research into aspects of asset management which was funded by European Union (EU), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), KPMG (an international accounting consultancy), DTZ (a national firm of Surveyors) Birmingham University plus two organisations in Russia. Kent County Council is currently assessed an 'Excellent' by the CPA process.
- 1.2 Alan Phelps has now begun a Doctorate in Asset Management which compares and reviews asset management in a number of countries.
- 1.3 Contact has been made with the Moscow Regional Government over a period of three years. At the beginning of 2005 a delegation from Moscow Regional Government visited Kent County Council to compare provision of asset manager and property services. A result of that visit has been a request that a delegation from Kent make a reciprocal visit and that a more formal exchange programme be arranged.
- 1.4 Asset Management is a specific discipline and Kent County Council thinks it would be prudent to have a delegation from a variety of authorities within or close to Kent. This would enable an on-going relationship with the Moscow Regional Government.
- 1.5 The Head of Property Services for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has received an invitation because of his participation, with Kent County Council, in a national working party which is reviewing National Property Performance Indicators. The working party includes representatives from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), Department for Education and Science (DFES) and Institute of Public Finance (IPF) as well as other authorities.
- 1.6 The local government structure in and around Moscow comprises a Moscow City Council which is surrounded by the local authorities with a total population of 6,000,000. The 74 local authorities form Moscow Regional Government.
- 1.7 The visit will be a valuable opportunity to identify how asset management and property issues are structured and dealt with in another environment. This will enable us to review our asset management arrangements in the light of this experience and further develop our processes and procedures such as review of asset usage, criteria for retention of assets, accommodation provision and standards etc.
- 1.8 The visit will also demonstrate that the council is investigating alternative methods of service provision in line with Best Value and the requirements of Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 That the Executive approve the proposal that the Head of Property of Property Services accept the invitation to join the delegation to Moscow Regional Government.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 The estimated total cost of the visit is £1,100, as follows

Accommodation	£	360.00
Air Fare/Visa/Consular fees	£	440.00
Other Travel	£	100.00
Insurance/Meals/Interpreter	£	<u>200.00</u>
Total	£	1,100.00

3.2 The cost will be funded from the existing budget for the development of asset management.

4. Consultation

4.1 Councillors

Portfolio Holders

The following Portfolio Holders have been advised of the proposals
Councillor H Collins; Civic Services Portfolio

Councillor Fairbrass; Leader of the Council and Councillor Twomey were verbally consulted.

4.2 Officers

The following Officers have seen this report and are happy with it as it stands.

DRE

Niall Bolger, Director of Regeneration & Environment
Jim Mack, Head of Asset Management & Development

Finance

Alexander Anderson, Head of Finance (DRE)
Alan Russell, Head of Audit

CS

Muhammad Saleem, Solicitor to the Council
Robin Hanton, Corporate Legal Manager

H&H

Jeff Elsom, Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Unit Manager

Background Papers

None