

Item 5

2011 Culture, Tourism and Sport annual conference

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This paper updates Members on progress made by LG Group officers on arrangements for the 2011 Culture, Tourism and Sport annual conference.

Recommendation

That members note the report and comment on the key themes that the conference should cover.

Action

Subject to members' comments, officers to take forward any suggested actions.

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2011 Culture, Tourism and Sport annual conference

Background

1. Members were updated on progress on the 2011 Culture, Tourism and Sport conference at the Board meeting in May 2010. Members agreed at that meeting that officers explore dates for the conference in late-February or early-March, so as to prevent any potential clashes between the conference date and the local government purdah period.
2. Members also expressed a preference for the conference to be held in Cardiff.

Update on conference planning

3. Although Cardiff was originally chosen as the preferred location to hold the Culture, Tourism and Sport conference in 2011, the only venue suitable for this event could, unfortunately, not accommodate the Group in the preferred dates chosen by the Board.
4. After a site visit in Cardiff and further consultation with Board Lead Members, it became apparent that the event would have to take place on either the first week of March (1-4 March) or the second week (7-11) only.
5. Officers were therefore asked to research venues across the country which could accommodate this event during the preferred dates and a number of venues were shortlisted which were then put through for consultation with the Board's Lead Members.
6. Based on venue availability, location, space and cost, York came on top of the preferred list and the Royal York Hotel (a four star hotel) is therefore recommended as the conference venue, with 3 – 4 March 2011 suggested as the dates for the conference.

Conference programme

7. Members will be updated at the Board meeting on potential themes and study tour visits identified by officers, and are invited to comment on themes that they feel should be covered at the conference.

Financial Implications

8. The financial implications of the conference described in this paper are in line with existing LG Group financial plans for conferences and events.



**Culture, Tourism and Sport
Programme Board**

13 September 2010

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