

Response to Request for Information

Reference: FOI 7220
Date: 15 December 2016
Type of request Freedom of Information Request

Councillor Bullen international travel payment request

1. Any request from Cllr Bullen for a payment from public funds in relation to his attendance at the 22nd of November 2016 full council meeting. (The meeting was told that Cllr Bullen was out of the country and had sought public funding in relation to his return).
2. The response from the council to Cllr Bullen's request.
3. The records of the decision taken following Cllr Bullen's request eg. any report and recommendation put to the decision maker(s) and their reasons for their decision.
4. Any material relating to Cllr Bullen's request and the council's decision in relation to it which was sent to all, or some, councillors to inform them of what had happened.

A request was received from Cllr Bullen by email on 15 November.

The Members' Allowances Scheme states that "International travel shall require approval in advance by all Group Leaders".

Consequently Cllr Bullen's request was forwarded to the Group Leaders for comment. Responses were received from Cllr Count, Cllr Nethsingha, and Cllr Walsh. A formal response was not provided to Cllr Bullen's request as he had been copied into correspondence which showed that the request did not have approval from all group leaders.

Copies of this correspondence are set out in the following pages of this response.

Information Governance Team

Box SH1001, Cambridgeshire County Council
Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP
Tel: 0345 045 5200
Email: xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

Initial email request and distribution to Group Leaders

From: Rowe Michelle

Sent: 15 November 2016 11:04

To: Count Steve Cllr; Nethsingha Lucy Cllr; Bullen Paul Cllr; Walsh Ashley Cllr; Hipkin John Cllr

Cc: Beasley Gillian; Baker Quentin; Aston Karin

Subject: FW: Full Council Meeting - 22nd November 2016

The Members' Allowances Scheme states that "International travel shall require approval in advance by all Group Leaders". Councillor Bullen will be in Abu Dhabi.

Can you let me have your views as soon as possible.

Regards

Michelle

From: Bullen Paul Cllr

Sent: 15 November 2016 10:57

To: Rowe Michelle <Michelle.Rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Full Council Meeting - 22nd November 2016

Hi Michelle,

As you're already aware, I have a pre-booked overseas holiday from 19th until 28th November 2016.

According to the constitution, I can claim travel expenses to return to the UK but only with the majority support of Group Leaders. Therefore, I'd be grateful if you would request approval from Group Leaders for me to return to the UK to attend Full Council next week.

Regards,

Paul

Councillor Paul Bullen

UKIP Group Leader & Member for St Ives

Cambridgeshire County Council

Group Leader responses (3) received

From: Count Steve Cllr

Sent: 15 November 2016 21:03

To: Rowe Michelle <Michelle.Rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>; Nethsingha Lucy Cllr <nethsingha@btinternet.com>; Bullen Paul Cllr <Paul.Bullen@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>; Walsh Ashley Cllr <ajw246@cam.ac.uk>; Hipkin John Cllr <johnhipkin@gmail.com>

Cc: Beasley Gillian <Gillian.Beasley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>; Baker Quentin <Quentin.xxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx.xx>;

Aston Karin <Karin.Aston@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Full Council Meeting - 22nd November 2016

Michelle

I have to consider what I would do if it were me. If I felt strongly that my vote could make the difference in securing a billion pounds of investment in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, I would very likely pay for a ticket or ask for one to be paid for. I cannot see that I would ever feel strongly enough to try and prevent that, especially when it goes against a public consultation, so no I will not support this.

Regards Steve

From: Lucy Nethsingha [mailto:nethsingha@btinternet.com]

Sent: 15 November 2016 13:33

To: Rowe Michelle <Michelle.Rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Full Council Meeting - 22nd November 2016

I am happy to approve Paul returning to the UK,
Lucy

From: A.J. Walsh [mailto:ajw246@cam.ac.uk]

Sent: 16 November 2016 00:10

To: Count Steve Cllr <Steve.Count@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>; Rowe Michelle

<Michelle.Rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>; Hickford Roger Cllr <Roger.Hickford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>;

Beasley Gillian <Gillian.Beasley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>; Baker Quentin <Quentin.Baker@LGSSLaw.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Full Council Meeting - 22nd November 2016

Dear Michelle,

Cc. Cllrs Count and Hickford

I do not support reimbursing the costs requested by Cllr Bullen. He is the first to lecture us about public money and he requested delaying the meeting in the first place.

Cllr Walsh

---- ENDS ----