

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Max Robertson, Council Secretary
Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability Budget – Councillors’ International Travel	

The purpose of this report is to:

- Seek approval for the Chairman (Councillor Anna Crighton) to attend the Urban 21 Global Conference on Urban Futures, to be held in Berlin in July 2000.
- Seek additional funding for Councillor Pat Harrow’s attendance at this conference, as Deputy Chairman of the Environment Committee.

1. BACKGROUND

An earlier report on this issue was submitted to the June meeting of the Committee. Then, members were advised of details of the World Conference on Model Cities, held in Singapore in April 1999. This conference was one of the four regional conferences which will lead up to a world conference in Berlin in July 2000, on Practical Practices for Cities of the Future.

A growing world population, economic development and social change have turned the world into an urban world. In the age of globalization, ever more and ever bigger urban agglomerations are spreading throughout the world. Towns and cities are the focus of today’s social and ecological problems. These problems include inadequate provision of drinking water and sewage disposal as well as a lack of educational facilities and medical services. Air pollution, the poor quality of drinking water, and noise damage health. However, towns and cities are also associated with opportunities for politicians and experts to solve these problems by combining action at global and local levels. Cities are the essential engines of economic development, enabling a growing number of people to live in a relatively small area with economic and ecological efficiency, in conditions which are compatible with cultural self-expression and human dignity. Towns and cities are places of culture and innovation, of community and tolerance. The city is our common future.

The sustainable development of towns and cities also helps to protect nature and secure peace on our planet. To achieve this, nations and cities must co-operate throughout the world.

2. REQUEST BY COUNCIL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Environment Committee submitted a recommendation to the June Council meeting that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman be authorised to attend this conference. The Council referred this recommendation back to the Committee for details of the budget provision required, and further discussion on the number of Councillors to attend.

3. BERTELSMANN FUNDING SINCE OBTAINED BY COUNCILLOR HARROW

Councillor Harrow has since obtained funding of \$2,500 from the Bertelsmann Fund Study Awards towards his attendance at the conference, and to assist him to hold some associated discussions with representatives of the Bertelsmann Foundation.

The Bertelsmann Foundation is also organising a workshop on budget consultation, and has asked Councillor Harrow to present a paper on the Christchurch model. The Foundation is also making arrangements for Councillor Harrow to:

- Visit Gutersloh and obtain an insight into the work of the Foundation and the Bertelsmann Media Company
- Visit Essen, which is one of project partner cities in the international network “Cities of Tomorrow” and which is also involved in the children’s cluster
- Visit Expo 2000 in Hanover

4. FUNDING AND ESTIMATED COSTS

The estimated costs for each delegate attending the conference are:

Return economy airfare	\$2,599
Conference registration	\$800
Accommodation, meals and incidental expenses	\$1,500
Total costs each delegate	\$4,899

If two Councillors attend the conference, the gross costs will therefore amount to \$9,798, less Councillor Harrow’s funding of \$2,500 from the Bertelsmann Fund Study Awards, giving a nett cost of \$7,298. This expenditure would be charged to the provision of \$35,000 which has been made for conferences and training in the Councillors’ section of the Public Accountability Budget for 1999/2000.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Chairman be authorised to attend the Urban 21 Global Conference on Urban Futures in Berlin from 4-6 July 2000, with expenses paid by the Council.
 2. That the Council also approve the payment of the balance of the Deputy Chairman’s expenses involved in his attendance at the conference, over and above the Bertelsmann study award of \$2,500.