

Ref: FOI / 2184

07 December 2018

Mr

Logic Explorer

Email: logicexplorer@hotmail.com

Dear Mr

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request Elected Members information

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

Request:

- 1. the progress made on installing videoconference facilities at council meeting places to reduce travel costs
- 2. the number of car parking spaces held at Quayside shopping centre for elected members and the cost in total of this, including any information about other provision in Strabane.
- 3. the total amount claimed by elected members for travel since the start of this mandate
- 4. councils response to the elected members survey that indicated they would like more diversity of food at meetings
- 5. the cost to council of all training provided to councillors since the last election, broken down by name of training course and provider.

Response:

1. Council currently have MICOLLAB, which is linked to our corporate Mitel phone system and which allows for phone, video conferencing and desktop sharing from officers' desks. This can be pre-booked and our Digital Services team set the calls up.

We are currently obtaining costs for TVs for key rooms in both the Derry and Strabane Council offices which will be connected wirelessly to laptops and pc's

Strabane

so that various other videoconferencing tools can be used such as Skype and other videoconferencing facilities provided by other meeting organisers.

Due to current government regulations, full council meeting and committee meetings cannot be undertaken via videoconferencing, however Council do stream full council meetings live for the public to view.

- 2. No car parking spaces held at Quayside Shopping Centre for Members. Council car park available at Derry Road, Strabane.
- 3. The amount claimed for Mileage since the new Council came into existence from April 2015 to October 2018 is £119,119.15
- 4. In the Councillor Satisfaction survey 2018, there were no comments submitted by Councillors requesting more diversity of food to be provided at meetings. No. 2 Councillors (out of the total no. 40 Councillors i.e. 5%) expressed dissatisfaction with the facilities provided in the Council Chamber in the Guildhall, which included heating, lighting and catering provision and not solely catering provision.

5.

Training Course	Date	Provider	Cost
Stress Management	17/9/18	PCM Associates	£425
Equality & Diversity	17/7/18	Kremer Consultancy Services	£250
Communicating with	23/3/18	Marcom	£600
Impact			
Safeguarding	23/2/18	Volunteer Now	£360
Children &			
Vulnerable Adults			
Rapid Reading	9/2/18	Creativedge Training &	£923
		Development	
Universal Tax Credits	2/11/17	Citizens Advice Bureau	£300
General Power of	22/2/17	APSE	£801
Competence			
Delivering High	21/1/16	Marcom	£600
Impact Speeches			
Media Training	15/12/15	Marcom	£600

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie **Chief Executive** Derry City and Strabane District Council 98 Strand Road Derry BT48 7NN Tel 028 71253253 or email john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow

CHESHIRE SK9 5AF Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would advise however, the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer