



Report To:	Cabinet
Date:	5 th May 2026
Subject:	Local Government Association Annual Conference
Purpose:	To review the Council's arrangements for Member attendance at the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference.
Key Decision:	No
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Dale Broughton, Leader of the Council
Report Of:	John Medler, Service Director – Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Report Author:	Rhonda Booth, Democratic Services Manager
Ward(s) Affected:	None
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

The LGA Annual Conference is the Association's national conference, bringing together senior decision makers, policy influencers and sector leaders from across England and Wales. The conference provides an opportunity to debate key challenges and priorities facing local government and includes policy discussions, ministerial speeches, workshops and networking events, alongside the LGA's Annual Meeting.

Cabinet is asked to review the current arrangements for Member attendance at the LGA Annual Conference (agreed by Cabinet in 2012) and to determine whether those arrangements should be retained or amended in response to recent requests from opposition Members.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the purpose and strategic value of the LGA Annual Conference; and

2. Determines, having considered the options set out in section 2 of this report, whether to retain or amend the existing arrangements governing the number of elected Members attending the LGA Annual Conference on behalf of the Borough Council.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure the Council's arrangements for attending the LGA Annual Conference remain proportionate, transparent and provide appropriate representation

Other Options Considered:

The options are set out at paragraph 2.2 of this report.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Association Annual Conference and Exhibition attracts in excess of 2,500 delegates each year and involves senior representatives from local authorities, central government, partner organisations and the private and voluntary sector
- 1.2 The 2026 Annual Conference will take place from 7–9 July 2026 at the Bournemouth International Centre. The three-day programme will focus on policy development, innovation in public services and opportunities for professional networking.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 30 May 2012, Cabinet agreed that attendance at the LGA Annual Conference should be limited to the Leader of the Council and/or the Deputy Leader(s), together with the Leader or spokesperson of the Council's largest opposition group.
- 1.4 Attendance was capped at a maximum of three representatives and was intended to apply to the 2012 conference and subsequent years. It was also suggested that there should not be a general policy of substitution. In 2025 the Council did unknowingly depart from policy with the use of a substitute.
- 1.5 The delegate cost of the conference for an LGA member is £599 plus VAT per attendee, with additional costs incurred for travel and accommodation, depending on attendance duration.

2. Report and Options available

- 2.1 Following several requests from Councillors about conference attendance, Cabinet is asked to review the existing position to consider whether any amendments to attendance arrangements are required.
- 2.2 The following options are available to Cabinet to consider, all of which retain the opportunity for cross-political group representation.

Option 1 – Retain the current arrangements

Retain the current position agreed by Cabinet in 2012, which permits the Leader of the Council and/or the Deputy Leader(s), together with the Leader or spokesperson of the Council's largest opposition group, to attend the Conference. Representation would continue to be capped at a maximum of three elected Members, with no general provision for substitution. Where an allocated place is not taken up, attendance by a substitute Member would only be permitted at the Leader of the Council's discretion (using executive powers).

Option 2 – If the largest opposition group is unable to attend then offer the place to the Group Leader of the next largest opposition group

Retain the current arrangements, but where the Leader of the Council's largest opposition group (or their spokesperson) is unable to attend, offer the opportunity to attend to the Leader of the next largest opposition group. This option provides additional flexibility for opposition group representation.

Option 3 – Increase the number of elected Members attending

Increase the number of elected members attending the LGA Annual Conference. This would result in additional costs to the Council (delegate fees, travel and accommodation) but would allow wider member engagement at the conference.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The current arrangements have provided a clear and consistent basis for Member attendance at the LGA Annual Conference, including cross-political group representation. In light of Members' requests to attend the Conference, and given the length of time since the arrangements were last reviewed, Cabinet is asked to determine whether the current arrangements should be retained or amended.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None

Corporate Priorities

None

Staffing

None

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

None

Data Protection

None

Financial

The LGA Member delegate fee is £599 (plus VAT) per attendee. Delegate fees are met from the Member training budget. Attendance at the full three-day conference may also incur travel and accommodation costs; these will vary depending on travel arrangements and length of stay and will be confirmed prior to bookings being made.

Risk Management

None

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

None

Reputation

None

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None

Health and Wellbeing

None

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

None

Acronyms

LGA – Local Government Association

Appendices

None

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

Chronological History of this Report

Cabinet 30 May 2012

Report Approval

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