

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Tenant Services Management Board 15th July 2013

Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Annual Conference 2013

Report of the Tenant Empowerment Manager

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Jean Adkins)

1. Executive Summary

Members of the Tenant Services Management Board (TSMB) have previously attended the TPAS Annual Conferences which have traditionally been held in Birmingham during July.

This year TPAS has changed the way the conference is delivered. There will be two conferences, one in the north and one in the south, both being held in September.

The TSMB is asked to decide whether to send delegates to a conference, and if so how many and which conference.

2. Background

TPAS is a leading national tenant participation organisation working to promote tenant empowerment. As well as providing training events it holds an annual conference which allows tenants from all over the country to attend workshops, hear guest speakers and meet with other tenants.

3. TPAS Conference 2013

TPAS has decided to split the conference this year, holding two conferences:

- TPAS Conference South – Radisson Blu Hotel, London Stansted Airport, 11th and 12th September
- TPAS Conference North – Mercure Hotel Piccadilly, Manchester, 24th and 25th September

Traditionally there has been a dinner held on the evening of the conference. This year TPAS is not holding a dinner, delegates will have to make their own arrangements.

With Taunton Deane being in the south west there is usually an assumption that if conferences are held on a geographical basis the south event is closer. According to

the AA Routeplanner to drive to the South conference would take 3 hours and 36 minutes while to drive to the north venue would take 3 hours and 46 minutes. There is therefore very little difference in travelling time.

4. Conference Programme

TPAS are currently finalising the full programme including workshops and speakers. The draft programme is detailed below:

Day One

9.30-10.30am	Delegate Registration
10.45-12.00pm	Opening Session & Guest Speaker
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch
1.15-2.45pm	Workshop Session A
2.45-3.15pm	Networking Coffee Break
3.15-4.45pm	Workshop Session B
4.45-5.45pm	Refresh Hour, meet the TPAS team to discuss the days events
5.45pm	Day one close

Day Two

9.30-10.00am	Delegate Registration
10.15-11.45am	Workshop Session C
11.45-1.00pm	Working Lunch
1.15-2.45pm	Workshop Session D
3.00-4.00pm	Closing Session
4.00pm	Day two & conference close

There is no publicised difference in the programmes between the North and South conferences.

5. Cost of Conference

TPAS are currently offering a discount on bookings. This is set at £299 per delegate but must be booked by the 31st July. After this date a place at the conference would cost £349.

Please note that the above cost does not include accommodation. TPAS has negotiated a preferential rate at each venue:

- TPAS Conference South

Radisson Blu Hotel, Stansted
£95.00 Bed & Breakfast
£117.95 Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

- TPAS Conference North
Mercure Hotel Piccadilly, Manchester
£105.00 Bed & Breakfast
£120.00 Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

It should be noted that other hotels are available in both areas if it is felt that these rates are too expensive.

Additional cost will be incurred if TSMB members wish to travel to the conference the day before.

The cost of the conference can be met by existing budgets.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended the Tenant Services Management Board:

- Note this report
- Decide whether representatives of the board should attend a conference
- Decide how many representatives should attend
- If it is decided to attend a conference seek nominations from board members. (Previous discussions have indicated a desire for members who have not attended such events before to be given an opportunity to attend)
- If it is decided to attend consider which conference to attend

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