

Mayor & Members

I refer to the following Notice of Motion from Cllr. Des O’Grady which is on the Agenda for the Council meeting on the 27th June:-

“To request a written report on the foreign travel undertaken by officials and elected members of Cork County Council in 2014, 2015 and 2016 to date.

The report to contain:

- a) The number of officials and elected members travelling and the destination, duration, purpose of and overall cost to Cork County Council of each separate delegation.*
- b) The amount of expense incurred through use of the ‘Corporate Credit Card’ on each separate delegation.*
- c) The total amount of personal expenses that may have been later reimbursed by the Council to members of each separate delegation.*
- d) The class of air travel used (whether 1st Class, Business or Economy) and the classification (Star Rating) of the accommodation utilised by each separate delegation.*
- e) The report to also contain the cost to Cork County Council in hosting overseas delegations, groups or individuals in each of the 3 years separately.”*

Response.

A ‘delegation’ is interpreted as a trip where a member of Council was present. However, members should note that many of the events listed below would be more appropriately considered as attendance at business meetings on behalf of the Council.

The following table shows the information required from January 2014 to May 2016. The trips in red were reimbursed 75% by the Interreg programme as per our project contract. The trips in Green are 100% reimbursable as per our membership of the board on Energy Cities (total amount are shown in table). The subsistence costs are based on national statutory rates.

Trip No.	Date	Destination	Reason	Councillor/ Staff	Cost	Credit Card spend
2014						
1	21 st – 24 th January	Cyprus	Interreg IVC Funded Serpente	Mayor and 1 Councillor + 2 Officials	€4,796.43	
2	26 th – 28 th February	Belgium	Journey of Remembrance	Mayor	€1,114.18	

Trip No.	Date	Destination	Reason	Councillor/ Staff	Cost	Credit Card spend
3	8 th -15 th March	Miami	The Cruise Industry Premier Global Event	Mayor + 1 Official	€6,166.52	€249.05
4	11 th -18 th March	Chicago/New York	Trade Delegation St. Patrick's Day Parades	Mayor + 3 Officials	€7,495.61	€1279.42
5	24 th - 26 th March	Birmingham	Trade fair for food and drink expo	Mayor + 2 Officials	€1,062.18	€157.04
6	23 rd Sept - 1 st Oct	China	Relationship Building, Economic Development	Mayor + 3 Officials	€7,292.82	
7	6 th - 9 th Oct	Bordeaux	Serpente Project	1 Councillor + 2 Officials	€3,751.26	
8	15 th -17 th Oct	Brussels	Mayor Adapt Signatory Ceremony	Mayor + 1 Official	€1,965.31	
9	19 th - 22 nd Nov	Florence	Serpente project Conference	Mayor + 4 Officials	€8,455.92	
10	5 th - 7 th Dec	London	London Cork Association Dinner	Deputy Mayor	€567.47	
11	3 rd - 7 th Dec	New Jersey, USA	Leading Women's Entrepreneurs Conference	Mayor	€1,081.69	
2015						
12	9 th - 11 th Feb	Stockholm	Grow Smarter Project Launch	Mayor + 1 Official	€2,764.95	
13	19 th - 20 th Feb	London	Schull Shorts film Festival	Mayor	€708.88	
14	25 th - 26 th Feb	Brussels	DG Energy	Mayor + 1 Official	€1,522.00	
15	5 th -6 th March	London	The Grand 3000 - The Casablanca Chapter	Mayor and Deputy Mayor	€1,983.24	
16	10 th - 22 nd March	Chicago, New York & Miami	Trade Delegation, St Patrick's Day Parades, The	Mayor + 3 Officials. 1 official did not attend Miami	€10,257.28	€729.97

Trip No.	Date	Destination	Reason	Councillor/ Staff	Cost	Credit Card spend
			Cruise Industry Premier Global Event			
17	23 rd – 25 th March	London	London Food Festival	Mayor	€811.75	
18	22 nd – 24 th April	Aberdeen	Energy Cities Conference	Mayor + 1 Official	€2,076.71	
19	2 nd – 6 th May	Boston	Boston Irish Social Club Event	Mayor	€1,609.71	
20	18 th – 19 th June	Brussels	Energy Cities	Mayor + 1 Official	€1,708.25	
21	13 th – 15 th Oct	Brussels	Energy Cities	Mayor	€1,485.65	
22	2 nd – 3 rd Nov	London	World Trade Market	Mayor + 2 Officials	€2,256.48	€304.71
23	16 th – 24 th Nov	China	Economic Development Business / Government Relations Mission.	Mayor + 3 Officials	€8,769.82	€1287.88
24	30 th Nov- 4 th Dec	Boston	Business and Tourism Mission.	Mayor and 1 Councillor + 2 Officials	€11,189.48 (includes flights and accommodation to London below).	€582
25	5 th – 6 th Dec	London	Cork Association Dinner	Mayor + 1 Official	€1,154.35	
2016						
26	March 9 th – 20 th	Chicago / Detroit, New York	Trade Delegation St. Patrick's Day Parades	Mayor and Deputy Mayor + 3 Officials attended Chicago. Of these 1 Councillor and 1 Official attended Detroit. 1 Councillor and 2 Officials attended New York.	Overall Costs not finalised.	€4833.25

Trip No.	Date	Destination	Reason	Councillor/ Staff	Cost	Credit Card spend
27	May 23rd -29th	China	Trade Delegation	Mayor and 1 Councillor + 4 Officials	Overall Costs not finalised	€4024.06

b) Expenditure on credit cards includes in some cases flights, accommodation, taxis and functions hosted by the Mayor.

(c) No personal expenses are paid.

(d) Guidance by way of circular from the Department of Finance provide for economy class travel be used for short haul flights. Premium economy may be used for long haul flights and in certain situations the guidance allows for the use of business class travel.

No flights by Councillors or staff were business or 1st Class. Economy class is normally used except for some long haul flights where premium economy is used.

(e) The only visiting political delegations in the period 2014 to 2016 were from China and the expenditure was as follows:-

2014	€19,888
2015	€17,898
2016	€14,438

In the normal course of our day to day business there may be occasional minimal costs (meals, coffees etc) associated with visits by individuals or groups. These visits happen across the organisation and the costs are charged to a range of budget codes within the relevant directorates. It would take considerable time to extract this information from the financial management systems. It is suggested that this is not the intention of the Notice of Motion.

Tim Lucey,
Chief Executive

27th June 2016.