



meeting	Administration Committee	
date	20 OCTOBER 2004	agenda item number

Report of the Assistant Director, Regeneration

Coalfield Communities Campaign (CCC) Annual Conference

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the attendance of three members at the annual CCC Conference on the 8th – 10th November 2004 at Matlock, Derbyshire.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council is a founder member of the CCC which lobbies and campaigns on behalf of both the interests of the coal industry and its dependant communities and most crucially, on securing responses for the regeneration of areas and communities hit hard by mine closures. It is an all-party local authority organisation and the County Council has three member representatives on the CCC, including Cllr Winterton, Cabinet member for Regeneration.

The CCC Conference

3. The CCC Conference offers the opportunity to participate in three days of discussions, workshops, study tours and events concentrating on issues central to Britain's present and former coalfields. The Conference will be addressed by leading experts and by key politicians, notably this year by a senior Cabinet Minister, Jane Bibby, Chief Executive of the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, Derek Mapp of Emda, Ian Lavery of the NUM and David Higgins, the Chief Executive of English Partnerships.
4. Likely topics include :
 - Government support for coalfield communities
 - The future of Regional Policy and EU Funding
 - The future of the British coal industry
 - The role of local authorities in Coalfield Regeneration

5. This year it is the turn of the East Midlands region of the CCC to host the national conference which this year, also includes involvement by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The County Council will be a contributor to the event in terms of being a host for a study tour and in providing a speaker for the event.
6. The costs associated with the above event are as follows:-

Description	Amount	To be met from
Conference or event fee	£1095.00	Regeneration Portfolio
Travelling expenses	£ 64.64	Regeneration Portfolio
Accommodation	£180.00	Regeneration Portfolio
Subsistence	£ 0.00	

7. The above cost for the event fees assumes full take-up of all three places at the conference but to date, Councillor Winterton is the only definite attendee. The travelling expenses and accommodation costs detailed above are based solely on his attendance but if all three places are taken up, these costs will increase commensurately. However, if no other interest is expressed, only the one conference booking will be made, reducing the event fee costs to £365.00. If all three places are taken up and each requests accommodation, the maximum anticipated cost would be £1728.92, including gifts for delegates.
8. The CCC has a strong agenda for the regeneration of the former coalfields which brings concerns to address issues of inequality; access to services and specifically unemployment, jobs and training; quality education, isolation and related economic and social exclusion issues and the Annual Conference offers an opportunity to share ideas and best practice to this end.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material; they have been described in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that approval be given to attendance of up to three members at the annual CCC Conference on the 8th – 10th November 2003 at Matlock, Derbyshire at the total cost indicated in the report.

Executive Head of Democratic and Legal Services' Comments

11. Approval for Members attendance at conferences and seminars falls within the delegation to the Administration Committee contained in the Constitution (JA 20.09.04)

Head of Resources' Financial Comments

12. The cost of up to £2328.92 can be funded from the members conferences budget within the Regeneration Portfolio.

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

CCC Annual Conference Flyer

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Coalfield Divisions across the County