



meeting ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

date 20 November 2003

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES

Purpose of Report

To inform councillors of the progress of councillor Mick Warner and Councillor Joyce Bosnjak at the end of the first year of the MPA at Warwick University; the programme for year two of the qualification and funding requirements

Background

The Warwick MPA is a 3 year modular qualification, specifically designed for top policy makers and managers in the public and not-for-profit sector. It is targeted at leaders and potential leaders in organisations to provide them with a critical perspective on the dilemmas of strategy, management and organisation in a complex and continuously changing world.

Year one of the qualification covered the following core modules:

- Strategy, leadership and values in a democratic context
- Globalisation and governance
- Designing and managing networks and organisations
- Systems thinking and learning
- Managing people and change
- The political economy of public policy
- Research and evidence based policy learning
- Financial and resource management
- Operations management and service delivery.

In the recently published Pay and Workforce Strategy by the ODPM the need for developing leadership capacity in local councils at the councillor level was seen as critical to sustaining improvement in local public services. Their statement on Corporate Capacity Building included, "peer support and the sharing of best practice, mentoring for chief executives, directors and leading councillors and sharing knowledge and learning". There was additionally, a specific emphasis on training for leadership and change management. As a council we are fortunate in having representation on the national Leadership Development Commission as a regional stakeholder. The Commission will produce a Local Government Leadership Development Strategy.

Outcomes and Next Steps

As part of the original learning agreement, to enable the sharing of knowledge and learning across the council, both councillors have completed work that will soon be available for general consumption, on the following topics:

- Strategy, Leadership and Values in a Democratic Context
- Globalisation and Governance
- Designing and Managing Networks and Organisations
- The Political Economy of Public Policy

Year two takes the councillors amongst other areas of learning, further into performance measurement and management in the public sector; policy making in the European Union; and US National and Local Governance in a global context and Public policy and Management: A comparative UK/USA Perspective.

Elective Modules in the USA

Arrangements for the Warwick MPA 2 elective modules in the USA are now confirmed. The Programme is as follows:

- The focus of Module 1 in Washington D.C. is on US and global public policy. The first two days will be spent in briefings and lectures from Georgetown University and George Washington University. The next three days will be spent in visits and discussions with staff in key organisations and think – tanks like the World Bank, the Institute of Policy Studies, The Urban Institute, The European Union Office in the US and the Embassy of the United Kingdom.
- The focus of Module 2 at the Kennedy School of Government will be on Public Value and Innovations in Governance and Public Services. This module will include participants from the USA and from several other countries and will include detailed real-life case studies of innovation.

Costs:

To enable the councillors to progress their learning, they have the opportunity of attending the two linked modules in the USA. Attendance will however, incur specific costs in excess of the tuition fees for the year. The approximate costs per person are as follows:

▪ Round trip flights	£2,026.00
▪ Transfers to and from airports	£ 225.00
▪ Hotels and meals in Washington DC	£ 750.00
▪ All inclusive residential fees at Harvard	£1,400.00
▪ Week-end accommodation and meals	£ 600.00

Total £5,001.00

Director of Resources' Financial Comments: (R/NS)

The anticipated cost will be met from the budgetary provision for Members Learning and Development.

Head of Legal Services' Comments: (KK)

The Administration Committee is responsible for determining the level and nature of support services for Members of the County Council. The proposals in this report are therefore within the remit of this Committee.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. The provisional costs to enable Councillor Mick Warner and Councillor Joyce Bosnjak to participate in the Warwick MPA linked modules in the USA, be met from the Members Learning and Development Budget.
2. Knowledge gained as a consequence of the study placements is produced in a format that can be used for the wider learning and development of councillors and officers in the organisation.