



meeting ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

date 18 February 2004

agenda item number

Report of the Assistant Director of Human Resources

SOCPO CONFERENCE: 10-12 MARCH 2004

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to consider attendance at the Society of Chief Personnel Officers in Local Government (SOCPO) Annual Conference in Brighton on 10-12 March 2004.

SOCPO Conference

2. This annual event is one of the largest, public sector events offering exceptional value with outstanding national and international speakers. It affords over 400 delegates an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest developments in personnel management both from listening to top quality speakers and by visiting over 40 exhibition stands.
3. A wide-ranging programme has been devised on the theme of 'Fresh Thinking and New Energy'. Including workforce development and diversity. Speakers include David Walker of The Guardian, Robert Smith and John Bruce-Jones of Stanton Harris, Roy Sheppard, Gary Young – New York correspondent of The Guardian, Kay Winsper – Head of HR Microsoft UK, Baroness Susan Greenfield – Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University and Richard Olivier of Mythodrama Associates.

Statutory and Policy Implications

4. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder, Human Rights and those using relevant services. The issues being considered are highly relevant to the development of a progressive HR strategy and supporting personnel policies within the County Council.

RECOMMENDATION

5. That consideration be given to the attendance of 4 Elected Members of Personnel Committee and the Strategic HR Manager at the SOCPO Annual Conference from 10-12 March 2004. (In previous years 3 Labour Members, 1 Conservative Member and the Strategic HR Manager have attended.)

Other options considered

6. No other options have been identified at this stage.

Lorraine Hallam
Assistant Director (HR)

Head of Resources Financial Comments (RE/MB)

The estimated cost of the conference, including conference fees, travel and accommodation is £5,685. This can be met from the 2003/04 budget for County Personnel Services within the Staffing and Best Value portfolio.

Head of Legal Services Comments (J.F)

The Admin Committee has the delegated authority to agree this recommendation.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Conference Publicity