



meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

date **7 JUNE 2005**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY PROTECTION)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE TRADING STANDARDS INSTITUTE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline the arrangements for this year's Annual Conference of the Trading Standards Institute and to recommend representation at the Conference.

2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) represents the professional interests of the Service. Its Annual Conference, which is specifically designed to enable local authorities to have a full involvement with the issues of the day, will take place 21 – 23 June 2005 in Brighton.
- 2.2 The theme of this year's Conference will be "Delivering the Vision: Local consumers – global markets".
- 2.3 The Conference will debate and demonstrate that effective and genuine partnership working between trading standards, central and local government, business and consumers can and does have a real impact on quality of life, competitive markets and health of the nation. The programme will be diverse and challenging throughout and will test current thinking. The Conference will provide the opportunity to construct the future role and direction of trading standards, and to work together to maximise its contribution, impact and visibility.
- 2.4 Sessions, debates and workshops will discuss the key areas of the day. Key note sessions will include;
- Addresses from the Trading Standards Institute and Business
 - Speaking to Local Government
 - Central and Local Partnerships
 - Consumer Challenge Quiz
 - Health Choices, Healthier Communities
 - Regulating modern Markets , Supporting UK Competitiveness
 - Improving Social Behaviour
 - Promoting Research and Encouraging Excellence
 - Young Consumers of the Year
 - Partnering the Media, beating the Scams
 - Safer Consumers, Safer Communities

2.5 The Assistant Director (Community Protection) would recommend that the County Council is represented at this Conference as it is the only national Trading Standards event available that fully reflects all the interests of local authorities. The Assistant Director (Community Protection) will be attending.

2.6 The estimated costs per delegate for Conference are as follows:

Conference Fee	£641.55
Traveling Expenses	£80.00 (Travel is likely to be by private car)
Subsistence	£36.00
Accommodation	£300.00

The figures shown for accommodation are in respect of rooms at a hotel located within a reasonable distance from the event. The cost of attending the conference will be met by the Administration Committee. Travel, Subsistence and Accommodation costs will be met from the Members Allowances budget. The Officer costs will be met from the Community Protection budget.

That in accordance with the usual practice the representatives be required to produce a written report evaluating their attendance for consideration as appropriate within the Council.

3. Statutory and Policy Implications

3.1 The report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities personnel, Crime and Disorder, and users. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

4. Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the County Council be represented at the Trading Standards Institute Conference.

That in accordance with the usual practice the representatives be required to produce a written report evaluating their attendance for consideration as appropriate within the Council.

Richard Hodge
Assistant Director (Community Protection)

5. Legal Services Comments (KK – 20.5.05)

5.1 The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve expenditure to be incurred for Member attendance at conferences and seminars including expenditure on accommodation, travel and other associated costs incurred in connection with such attendance. The proposal in this report, insofar as it relates

to Members attendance at the conference and is consistent with County Council's Travel and Conference Policy, is within the remit of this Committee.

6. Director of Resources Financial Comments (C&C/RWK)

6.1 The financial implications are set out in the report.

7. Background Papers Available for Inspection

7.1 Conference Details.

8. Electoral Divisions Affected

8.1 Nil