

report



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	1 February 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The Global Dimension in Nottinghamshire Schools – Arion study visit, Athens, Greece, between 13 March and 17 March 2006

Purpose of report

1. To seek approval for one LA officer to travel abroad for more than four days, enabling them to participate in the Socrates Arion 2005/06 Programme.

Information and advice

2. Under the Travel and Accommodation Policy and other arrangements approved by the full Council on 7 October 2004, this Committee is the appropriate body for considering/approving attendance at a range of events and the travel and accommodation requirements arising therefrom.
3. This report describes a proposal which is within the Committee's decision-making powers and Members are asked to consider whether attendance at the event should be approved (including number of representatives), together with any necessary travel, accommodation or other arrangements.
4. The information included within the following sections of the report should ensure compliance with normal decision-making rules. If attendance is approved, the details referred to below will be used to compile the public register, which is available on the Council's web-site.

Reasons for attendance

5. This Arion Study visit takes place in Athens, Greece, between 13 March and 17 March 2006. The Officer will be required to travel out

prior to 13 March 2006 as the study visit will commence at 9.00am on the Monday morning of 13 March 2006.

6. Approval is sought for an officer from the Arts Support Service to attend for the following reasons:-
 - The Arion Programme is managed by the British Council and allows education specialists including education officers, inspectors and head teachers to participate in a 5 day study visit held throughout Europe on various themes.
 - Nottinghamshire LA can apply for 4 places on the Arion programme annually. The Officer was nominated by Nottinghamshire LA to the British Council to take part in an Arion visit on the theme of 'Introducing primary and secondary school students to music as a major cultural expression'.
 - The visit offers the opportunity to discuss with colleagues involved in similar work, how they are devising effective projects in their schools, and how, through the use of a variety of musical and cultural styles, this impacts on the students and the schools.

Travel and accommodation requirements

7. All costs incurred by taking part in the visit will normally be covered by the Arion Programme and therefore there is no cost to the LA. The estimated costs associated with Arion study visit are as follows:-

Description	Amount	To be met from
Air Fare	£200	British Council Grant
Accommodation in Greece	£400	British Council Grant
Subsistence	£150	British Council Grant

8. The LA Officer will require travel to the destination which will be booked through Members Services. The most cost effective means of travel to Athens, to enable the Officer to start at 9.00am on Monday 13 March 2006 will be sought. This may include travelling on the Saturday 11 March 2006 to take advantage of economy air fares.
9. Each participant taking part in the Arion Study Visit programme receives a fixed grant of 1100euro (approximately £750) to cover the full costs of the visit, including all travel, accommodation and subsistence costs.
10. Any necessary expenditure over and above the Arion Grant will be met by the Arts Support Service budget.

11. Accommodation arrangements are made directly by the British Council in order to receive a group discount and will therefore not be booked through Members Services.

Statutory and policy implications

12. This report is necessary to ensure compliance with the Council's Travel and Accommodation policy and current arrangements for approving attendance at conferences, seminars and Member Training events. The needs of individual travellers will have been considered when compiling the report and, where departures from the policy are recommended, Members should consider the reasons given.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That approval is given for the LA officer to participate in the Arion Study Visit to Athens, Greece, which will involve travel abroad for a period of more than 4 days.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

Legal Services' Comments (LM19/1/06)

14. The Administration Committee has delegated power under the Scheme of Delegation to approve Members attendance at conferences and seminars which must be in accordance with the County Council's Travel and Accommodation Policy.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (NDR)

15. The financial implications to Nottinghamshire County Council are set out in the report under paragraphs 7-10.

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

www.britishcouncil.org

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Nottinghamshire

M19C1491