



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	6 July 2005	agenda item number

Report of the Head of Scrutiny

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval for:

- A contribution of £500 from the County Council towards a proposed external scrutiny training event that is being organised by the Nottinghamshire/ Derbyshire Scrutiny network. This network is made up of Council Officers working in scrutiny roles across the two counties. The County Council's Scrutiny Officer Team regularly attends this network. The County Council's Select Committee Chairs' Forum meeting on 14th June 2005 discussed, and was supportive of, this event and the request for funds.
- The County Council's Scrutiny Team organising an internal scrutiny training day specifically tailored to Chairs and Vice Chairs of Select Committees. The County Council's Select Committee Chairs' Forum meeting on 14th June 2005 suggested this training event.

2. Information and Advice

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. 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. 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 website.

3. Reasons for Attendance

- 3.1 The Nottinghamshire / Derby Scrutiny network is planning a one day scrutiny event for Members and Officers from – potentially - all local authorities in the two Counties, to be held towards the end of September 2005. The Chesterfield area has been suggested as a convenient location. The draft aims, and objectives of the event are to raise the profile of Scrutiny within the region, showcase our scrutiny achievements, enable Scrutiny Members and Officers to meet other colleagues and discuss ideas, issues, and experiences, and to enhance scrutiny skills. The event is intended to include a mix of keynote speakers and workshops. The event's steering group has requested that all Authorities wishing to participate in the event be asked to "underwrite" the event by committing a sum of £500, for which they would be guaranteed 5 places for Members or Officers.
- 3.2 The County Council's Scrutiny Team organised and facilitated a training event for Members on 6th June 2005, "Scrutiny and partnership working". The Team has now been requested by the Chairs Forum to prepare and organise a scrutiny training event specifically tailored to the needs of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Select Committees; the location of the event would be County Hall, and the date would be arranged in consultation with Members and the Head of Members' Services.

4. Statutory and Policy Implications

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 would need to be considered once attendance at the events had been confirmed.

5 Recommendations

That Committee approve

- The sum of £500 from the Members training/ Scrutiny Team budget to guarantee 5 places for Members at the Nottinghamshire Derby Scrutiny network training event.
- The Scrutiny Team organising an internal training event tailored to the needs and role of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the County Council's Select Committees. The costs would be contained within the Scrutiny Team's budget.

Lynn Senior
Head of Scrutiny

Legal Services comments (PDH170605)

It is within the delegation to the Administration Committee to consider the merits of this proposed expenditure and to approve if appropriate.

Director of Resources' financial comments

The cost of Members attending the Nottinghamshire / Derby Scrutiny network event will be met from the Members' training budget whilst the cost of officers attending the event will be met from the Scrutiny budget held in the Chief Executive's Department. The split of the £500 will depend on the number of Members and Officers attending.

Background papers available for inspection

Nil

Electoral Divisions affected

Nil