

report



meeting ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

date 2 November 2005

agenda item number

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Members' visit to schools providing extended services

Purpose of Report

1. This report proposes a visit by County Councillors to a number of schools which are involved in providing a range of extended services for their pupils and the local community. It is proposed that the visit takes place on 27 February 2006.

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 the 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. A key element of the Government's education strategy is the development of extended services in and around schools. This strategy involves schools working in partnership with the communities

they serve, and a wide range of other agencies. The aim is not only to enhance the opportunities for the children and young people who attend the school, but also to improve the facilities and services available to the wider community.

6. This strategy plays a key role in improving the outcomes for all children and young people as set out in the Every Child Matters – Change for Children agenda whilst at the same time contributing to the social and economic regeneration of communities.
7. Schools in the County have, for some time, been actively involved in the provision of extended services. The recent high priority given to this by central Government, supported by the investment of additional resources has resulted in a significant increase in the level of activity across the county. More schools than ever before are offering extended services, and those schools that have a longstanding involvement in this work have increased the range of services available.
8. The proposed visit programme will provide the opportunity for Members to visit a number of schools across the county to see at first hand the developments that are taking place. The final itinerary will be determined when the date for the visit has been confirmed. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
9. Members will gain a better understanding of how extended services in and around schools are making a valuable contribution to the achievement of key County Council priorities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. 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.

Financial Implications

11. The anticipated cost of the visit will be between £250 and £750. This will cover transport, lunch and refreshments and will be dependent on the final numbers attending which will not be known until the end of November 2005 (should approval be given for this visit to go ahead). Costs will be met from the Education hospitality budget which, for 2005/06, totals £4,000.

Crime and Disorder implications

12. The availability of a wide range of interesting and challenging activities outside of the normal school day helps to improve the motivation and self esteem of young people and reduces the likelihood of involvement in anti-social behaviour.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That the Committee approves the proposed visit, open to all County Councillors, to schools on 27 February 2006.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

Legal Services' Comments (KS/12/10/05)

14. The Administration Committee has delegated authority to approve attendance at a range of events including any travel requirements. The Nottinghamshire County Council Travel and Accommodation Policy must be complied with.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (PWH)

15. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

Nil.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Nottinghamshire

M19C1415