



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE		
date	8 September 2004	agenda item number	5(b)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Developing more school links between Nottinghamshire schools and Poznan/Wrzesnia schools

Purpose of Report

1. The report seeks approval for two representatives from each of three schools (Retford Oaks, Mansfield All Saints and Meden) accompanied by the Polish Liaison Officer to undertake a Study Visit to potential partner schools in Wrzesnia and Poznan during their half-term break, 23-28 October 2004.

Information and Advice

2. This proposal follows a pattern that has proved successful in the past in linking schools from within the Polish city/region covered by the County Council twinning charter. Three schools, two in Poznan and one in Wrzesnia, are seeking to develop cooperation with schools from Nottinghamshire and the headteachers of these three schools have indicated their willingness to participate in this exploratory visit during their October half-term break. They would be accompanied by a member of staff most likely to accept responsibility for developing subsequent links across different levels, professional and student centred. The Polish school will host their Nottinghamshire guests and subsequently the Nottinghamshire group will offer reciprocal hosting arrangements, probably in the Polish schools winter break at the end of January 2005. From those two visits there will emerge a decision on how cooperation can best be developed and what direction these links should take.

Background

3. There are already several Nottinghamshire schools engaged in active cooperation with Polish schools. With Poland now a member of the European Union there is increasing interest in schools and in other organisations in developing links with English speaking partners. Cooperation between schools can be aimed at professional developments, curricular interests, particularly at specialist levels in performing arts, sport, I.C.T., and in the general pursuit of links that

support Polish students in their aim to improve their English whilst, for Nottinghamshire students, the broadening of their knowledge and awareness of Poland has proved to be exciting and worthwhile. The headteachers of schools which have already participated in these links have conveyed their enthusiasm to their colleagues on the value of the cooperation. The headteachers involved in this proposed visit have already given consideration to the potential benefits to their students and staff prior to expressing an interest in this study visit.

Statutory and Policy Implications

4. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Members' attention is however drawn to the following:-

Financial Implications

5. The costs associated with the proposed visit are as follows:

Description	Amount £
Flights from Heathrow to Poznan for seven people	1,050
Transport return to Heathrow (people carrier)	300
Insurance	105
Subsistence: 6 days x £10 per day for one person	60
Hotel for Polish Liaison Officer = 5 nights x £30 per night	150
Total	1,655

The flights are shown as economy class for LOT Polish airlines through Polorbis Travel

6. All food and accommodation costs for school staff will be met by the host schools. The Polish Liaison Officer's accommodation costs represent an economy class hotel in Poznan. **The cost of the visit would be met from the Education Development Initiatives Budget which stands at £17,240 on 2004/05.**

RECOMMENDATION

7. That approval be given for this Education Study Visit to proceed on the basis of the proposals contained in the report.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

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Legal Services Comments

8. The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve officer travel outside Europe or in excess of 4 days in accordance with the Council's Travel and Conference Policy. The proposal in this report relating to the Polish Liaison Officer is therefore within the remit of this Committee

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (PWH)

9. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

10.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Retford South
Pleasley Hill and Broomhill
Warsop

M19C1168