



meeting	<b>Administration Committee</b>		
date	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September 2004</b>	agenda item number	<b>5(e)</b>

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Library Authorities Conference “Public Library Impact: Changed Priorities ... or Shared Priorities?”

#### Purpose of Report

1. To consider the attendance of three Elected Members and one officer to the 2004 Public Library Authorities Conference in Newcastle upon Tyne.

#### Information and Advice

2. Approval is sought within the terms of the Council's Conference and Travel Policy for two Members of the Majority Group (one being the Cabinet Member for Culture) and one Opposition Group Member and one officer to attend the Conference.
3. Attendance at/participation in this event has been considered under paragraph 3 of that policy and the following comments are offered:-

This is the only national library conference specifically developed for Elected Members and public library professionals. The authority is required by statute to produce a Public Library Position Statement and is subject to statutory national library standards. Public Libraries also contribute to the authority's CPA score through the 'Libraries and Leisure' block.

4. The conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, 12 -15 October 2004. Last year saw the publication of *Framework for the Future*, the national strategy for the future of public libraries. One year on the conference will explore whether *Framework* is helping libraries to punch above their weight in local, regional and national agendas. Conference will be used to demonstrate the impact that the public library sector can, and does make. It will compare the reality and the rhetoric with a range of speakers who are involved in new models of service delivery and dynamic partnership. There will be papers from leading politicians and executive officers at national, regional and local levels demonstrating how local library

services contribute to the wider agendas. For members and officers, the conference promises to raise expectations and also raise the stakes.

5. The costs associated with the above event are as follows:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>To be met from</u>
Conference fee	£2097 (£699 x 3)	Members Conference Budget within the Culture Portfolio
Conference fee	£699	Library Service's Revenue Budget
Travelling expenses	£480 (£160 x 3)	Members allowances
Travelling expenses	£69.00	Library Service's Revenue Budget
Accommodation	Included in Conference fee	
Subsistence	All meals included in Conference fee	

6. The travelling expenses shown above are for 1st class rail for Members, with officer travelling standard class. Travel may, however, be made by road.
7. The County Council's representatives would be staying at the Conference Hotel so that they are closer to the business of the event, and also because there is no separate charge for accommodation as this is an inclusive-fee conference.

### **Personnel Implications**

8. There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report.

### **Financial Implications**

9. The cost per delegate is £699 which includes all conference fees, accommodation and meals during the conference dates. Additional costs will be incurred for travel. Members' conference costs are met from the Members Conference budget with the Culture Portfolio. One Officer will be attending the Conference and those costs will be met from the Library Service's revenue budget.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

10. There are no Equal Opportunities implications arising directly from this report, but the conference agenda usually addresses a number of equalities issues impacting on public libraries.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

11. There are no implications arising specifically from this report.

### **Legal Comments (KK – 09.08.04)**

12. The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve Members attendance at conferences and seminars. The proposal in this report relating to Members is therefore within the remit of this Committee.

### **Director of Resources' Comments (CC/RWK)**

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

### **Recommendations**

14. That the County Council be represented by two Members of the majority group (including the Cabinet Member for Culture) and one Opposition Member at the Public Library Authorities Conference 2004.

### **Background Papers Available for Public Inspection**

15. PLA Conference programme, details of which are also available on the on [www.cilip.org.uk/placonference](http://www.cilip.org.uk/placonference).

### **Electoral Division(s) Affected**

16. All

**Mick Burrows**  
**Director of Culture and Community**

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