



meeting	Administration Committee	
date	23 April 2008	agenda item number

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SAFETY,
REGENERATION AND PROTECTION**

CIVIC RECEPTION - THE 2008 ALLIANCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the County Council to host a civic reception on the evening prior to the 2008 Alliance Annual General Meeting of 6th June 2008.

Advice and Information

2. The Alliance, formed in June 2007, comprises 71 local authority members from the traditional industrial areas of Britain. It emerged from sectoral-based former lobbying organisations such as Steel Action and the Coalfields Communities Campaign, of which the County Council had been a long-standing member. The County Council's nominated representatives on the Alliance are the Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration, Councillor Steve Carroll and Councillor Albert Haynes.
3. The Alliance delivers its work on a day-to-day basis through a secretariat based in Barnsley. In addition, the secretariat supports a schedule of regional and national meetings attended by members and officers of member authorities, where strategy and policy are discussed and agreed. These meetings are hosted by member authorities around the country on a voluntary basis. As they are held on Friday mornings, they invariably necessitate an overnight stay on the preceding evening for local authority members required to travel long distances to the venue. In these circumstances, the host authority usually displays hospitality to its hosts by extending the invitation to include some sort of reception to guests on the Thursday evening.
4. On 25th July 2007, Administration Committee approved expenditure for the County Council to host the organisation's inaugural annual general meeting on 6th June 2008. To host the first Annual General Meeting of the new body represents a high-profile opportunity for the County

Council to demonstrate its support for the Alliance and to maintain its high profile as a founder member and a supporter of the economic regeneration of traditional industrial areas of Britain. Given this opportunity, and in recognition of the hospitality regularly extended by fellow Alliance members to its partner authorities including Nottinghamshire, it is proposed that the County Council extends an invitation to fellow Alliance members. Specifically, to attend a civic reception in the Rufford Suite on the evening of Thursday 5th June 2008.

5. To encourage attendance and in addition to the usual format of welcoming speeches, food and drink, the reception would also feature background music from a local acoustic guitarist. The music would be played as guests arrive and after the formal speeches, to encourage a convivial atmosphere and to ensure that our guests leave with lasting memories of Nottinghamshire hospitality. It is also intended to use the event as an opportunity to explain the role of the Alliance in the regeneration of Nottinghamshire, by means of a press article in County News. To that end, a photographer will be in attendance to record the evening.
6. The costs of the event (based upon up to 50 delegates) are as follows:

Buffet meal @ £12.50 per head	£625.00
Drinks @ £2.50 per head	£125.00
Photographer	£250.00
Total	£1,000.00

The cost of this can be met from the Economic Regeneration budget 2008/09.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. 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.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that approval is given for the County Council to host a civic reception in advance of the inaugural Annual Conference of the Alliance on 5th June 2008, at a cost of up to £1,000.00.

Legal Services' Comments

The Administration Committee has delegated authority to authorise hospitality to be offered by the County Council. The proposal in this report is therefore with the remit of this Committee. [KK 13.3.08]

Strategic Director (Resources) Financial Comments

The financial implications are as set out in paragraph 6 of the report. (K.P. 17.3.08)

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

Annual Conference invitation from the Alliance

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All