

report

meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**date **11 MAY 2004**
number

agenda item

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REGENERATION, LEARNING, SKILLS
and EMPLOYMENT**

**ACTE Association of European Textile Communities
Executive meeting 14th May Roubaix, France**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for attendance of member and one officer for the following ACTE activity on 14th May in Roubaix, France.

2. Information and Advice

Background and Objectives of ACTE

- 2.1 ACTE is a non-profit making Association set up in 1991 at Guimareas, in Portugal which brings together more than 50 local Authorities from the same number of textile-clothing areas in Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Belgium, England, Croatia and Greece.
- 2.2 ACTE maintains that the contemporary textile-clothing industry enhances culture, creativity and innovation, which are rooted in European companies and areas. Its aim is that of encouraging the adoption of European policies aimed at modernising the sector in a competitive context and promoting ties of co-operation and partnerships among European companies and textiles areas.
- 2.3 Since its emergence, the activities carried out by ACTE have been numerous, both at a political level through a number of policy statements and at a local level, with development programmes, of economic, social or cultural character.

- 2.4 Cllr Chris Winterton is currently the UK Vice-President of ACTE and Aija Gagans acts as the UK National Co-coordinator for ACTE.
- 2.5 Further work is currently being developed to create a network of activity and resources with the Member states. Aija Gagans is currently undertaking work on a PAN European bid through Interreg 111C with other ACTE members.
- 2.6 Resulting from this ACTE holds regular General Assembly/ Executive meetings to achieve and promote the objectives.
- 2.7 Where possible, ACTE offer to reimburse the cost of accommodation and expenses at such meetings for Cllr. Winterton and flight costs are kept to a minimum. A further 400 Euros are reimbursed annually for Cllr Winterton on proof of receipts for activities undertaken on behalf of ACTE.
- 2.8 **Purpose of meeting on 14th May:**

- High Level Group of the Future of Textiles and Clothing
- European Projects
- Presentations of the National Mandate and local Strategic Plans from all member countries
- Presentations from Region Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Communauté Urbaine de Lille and Ville de Roubaix
- Treasury report
- Other updates and reports

As Cllr Winterton is the UK Vice President of this Association, which has an effective influence in the EU decision making, it is recommended that he represents the County Council at this meeting. The officer acts as the National Co-ordinator responsible for undertaking project work and assistance with reports and research.

2.9 **Costs**

The approximate costs associated with the meeting are as follows:

Description	Amount
Flights from East Midlands to Lille	£113.93 per person inc. taxes
Train fare Lille to Roubaix	£50 per person
Subsistence	£17 per day per member
Accommodation	£90 approx for officer per night

It is anticipated that hotel and meals costs for Cllr Winterton will be reimbursed by ACTE.

The total cost for the member will be approximately £205.93 and £385.93 for the officer whose costs will be met through the NICC budget. Travel will be undertaken the day before and after the meeting since no direct flights are available to Roubaix to allow for arrival at the required times.

3. Statutory and Policy Implications

- 3.1 This report covers all the issues required to be considered by the Council's Travel and Conference policy. Reasons, which support participation at this meeting, are outlined above. Access and safety issues will be considered when making the detailed arrangements.

4. Executive Head of Democratic and Legal Services' Comments (KK)

- 4.1 The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve the attendance of Members at conferences and seminars and for travel abroad. The proposal relating to the Member in this report is therefore within the remit of this Committee. The issue of the officer's attendance at this meeting is a matter for his/her department.

5. Director of Resources' Financial Comments

- 5.1 .To Follow

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the next ACTE Executive meeting will be attended by Cllr Winterton and one officer.

7. Background Papers Available for Inspection

- All minutes from past meetings.
- 'Co-operation Throughout Europe and Economic and Social Development of European Textile Areas', an ACTE report.
- Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, Biella 2003
- European Petition Final Report on International Trade
- Proposal of Communication to the European Commission, and the European Parliament, which was submitted to the General Assembly of the European Textile Collectivities Association (ACTE).
- Methodological Guide for Drawing up Local Strategic Textiles Plans
- ProjectAC_T_E-Territorial Action for Employment

8. Electoral Divisions Affected

- 8.1 All.

Nigel Hamshere

Assistant Director Regeneration, Learning, Skills and Employment