



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	23 April 2008	agenda item number

## REPORT OF THE ACTING STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

### **The Global Dimension for Children and Young People in Nottinghamshire – Monitoring and evaluation of two week Primary Teachers' Project in Nancy, France**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To seek approval for one LA officer to travel abroad for more than four days, enabling them to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the Two Week Primary Teachers' Project in Nancy, France. The proposed period of travel will be 27 – 31 May 2008.

#### **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 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 website.

## Reasons for attendance

5. To enable the Primary Languages officer to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the Two Week Primary Teachers' Project in Nancy, France. The officer will be attending the language up-skilling course run by staff at the University of Nancy and ensuring that the fourteen staff from Nottinghamshire schools involved in the project are benefiting fully from the course. The officer will also be discussing with inspectors from the Académie de Nancy-Metz, the reciprocal visit by Nancy teachers of primary English to Nottinghamshire later in the year. Additionally, Nottinghamshire is in the initial stages of making a formal link with the Nancy-Metz area which was approved at the Cabinet meeting on 19 September 2007. The officer will make initial contacts and observations with representatives from the University and the Académie de Nancy-Metz to feed back to other NCC officers who would be involved in the link on her return.
6. Approval is sought for one LA officer to attend. The officer is one of the LAs Primary Languages Consultants and also the International Links Coordinator for schools.
7. Details of the visit and the benefits of the LA officer attending are set out below:-

Nottinghamshire LA will benefit from the visit in three ways:

- The Nottinghamshire teaching staff involved in the course at the University of Nancy will have the additional input of the officer as well as tuition from her colleagues at the Inspection Nationale in Nancy;
- The officer will be able to discuss and formulate with colleagues from the Inspection Nationale a reciprocal programme for the French teachers who will visit the participants' schools in Nottinghamshire later in the year;
- The proposed area link between Nottinghamshire and Nancy-Metz will be given added impetus by opportunities to network with local authority officials.

The purpose of the visit is twofold for the teachers:

- They will increase their linguistic competence in French so that they can teach it more effectively in the classroom, and through their week of job shadowing they will make contacts with teachers in local schools which will enable them to teach the Intercultural Understanding strand of the KS2 Framework with greater confidence.

- Nottinghamshire is already making very good progress in the number of schools engaged in the DCSF International School Award and all participants' schools will register for the Foundation or Intermediate stage of the award.

Other benefits to the LA and Children and Young People in Nottinghamshire:

- All personnel involved in the visit will be invited to disseminate their experiences to other potential teachers of primary languages in the County.
- Nottinghamshire is actively providing opportunities for primary teachers of languages to upskill and the monitoring and evaluation of this visit will enable more teachers to benefit from similar projects in the future.
- The provision of high quality primary languages teaching is key in Nottinghamshire as is the promotion of the International Dimension in schools, and both of these areas will be enhanced by the successful monitoring and evaluation of this project.

### **Travel and accommodation requirements**

8. The estimated costs associated with this visit are as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>To be met from</b>
Eurostar London-Nancy return	£90	British Council funding
Newark-London return	£70	British Council funding
Accommodation / Meals	£300	British Council funding

There will be no direct costs to Nottinghamshire County Council.

9. The LA officer will require travel to Nancy which will be booked through Members Services. The most cost-effective means of travel to Nancy will be sought to enable the officer to start at 9.00am on 27 May 2008. The event ends on 31 May.
10. Accommodation arrangements will be booked by the Inspection Nationale in Nancy.

## **Statutory and policy implications**

11. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

12. That approval is given for the LA officer to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the Two Week Primary Teachers' Project in Nancy, France which will involve travel abroad from 27 to 31 May 2008.

### **ANTHONY MAY**

Acting Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services.

## **Legal Services' comments (LM/29.2.2008)**

13. The Administration Committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report.

## **Strategic Director of Resources' financial comments (NDR)**

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

## **Background papers available for public inspection**

Report to Cabinet on 19 September 2007: Local Authority Area Link with Nancy, France

## **Electoral division(s) affected**

Nottinghamshire

M19C2026