



meeting Administration Committee

date 20 October 2004

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES

L.G.I.U. ANNUAL CONFERENCE 12 – 13 NOVEMBER 2004 'WHERE NOW FOR LOCALISM?'

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for attendance by Councillor Andy Freeman at the L.G.I.U. Annual Conference - Where Now for Localism from 12 – 13 November 2004.

2. Information & Advice

- 2.1 The County Council is represented on the Management Committee of the LGIU by Councillor J Carter and Councillor M Warner.
- 2.2 This year's LGIU Annual Conference is to be held in York from 12 to 13 November. The LGIU has indicated that it comes at a key point in the build up to a possible general election and also coincides with important Queen's Speech announcements and the regional referenda. The conference provides an opportunity to meet, learn, exchange ideas and debate with key politicians.
- 2.3 The theme of the conference is 'Where Now for Localism?', which is considered crucial to the future of local government.
- 2.4 Workshops at the conference will cover neighbourhood governance, community leadership, the limits of choice, whether inspection drives improvement, school transport plans, children's trusts, housing, communities – making the difference, regional government and devolution.

3. Matter for Consideration

- 3.1 In accordance with the Travel and Accommodation Policy and a recent decision of the Council, the Committee is asked to consider attendance at this conference, together with the associated travel and accommodation arrangements.
- 3.2 Attendance at the conference has been considered against the Council's policies and objectives and the following comments are offered:-

It will be seen from the list of workshops included above that the majority of the workshops support areas of the Council's Strategic Plan. It is felt to be appropriate for the Council to be represented at this important national conference, both to contribute a Nottinghamshire perspective to the discussions and to learn about innovations in dealing with the issues to be raised. There will be opportunities to network with representatives of both local and central government.

This particular conference is one of those where the Council has traditionally been represented. In future years, it will be brought forward within a composite list of events where attendance might be considered. The date of this conference means that consideration needs to be given to the question of attendance at this meeting.

Information has been received from the Chief Whip of the Labour Group that the Group would wish Councillor Andy Freeman to be able to attend. The Committee is asked to consider that nomination and to determine whether additional councillor representatives should be appointed.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of attending the Conference, per person, is

		To be met from
Conference fee	325.00	Members' Conference budget
Accommodation	115.00	
Method/Class Travel	90.00	
Subsistence	16.24	

The conference fee includes all workshop materials, lunch and dinner on 12 November and morning coffee on 13 November. The charge shown for accommodation is for the night of 12 November only and includes breakfast. The amount shown for subsistence is the maximum amount permitted to be claimed by an individual attending this conference for refreshments other than the meals already referred to. The travel costs shown are for standard class rail travel.

5. Statutory and Policy Implications

5.1 As required by the Travel and Accommodation Policy and a recent decision of the full Council, it is necessary for Members' attendance at this conference to be considered and approved in advance by this Committee. The necessary information is included in the report to enable the Committee to reach a considered decision.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That Committee determine attendance at the LGIU Annual Conference

- 6.2 That, in accordance with usual practice, any representative authorised to attend the conference be required to produce a written report evaluating their attendance for consideration as appropriate within the Council.

**P. A. MAYFIELD
HEAD OF MEMBERS' SERVICES**

Legal Services' Comments (KK)

The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve expenditure to be incurred for Members attendance at conferences and seminars. The proposal in this report relating to the attendance is therefore within the remit of this Committee. The attendance by an officer is a departmental matter.

Director of Resources Financial Comments (MB)

The cost of the conference can be met from the 2004/05 budget for Members Conference Expenses.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Conference leaflet.

Electoral Divisions Affected

All.