



meeting ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

date 21 September 2005

agenda item number

REPORT FROM THE HEAD OF MEMBERS SERVICES

Annual Legal Service

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Administration Committee for the County Council to cover the cost of hospitality in the form of a buffet lunch in the Shire Hall, following the Legal Service on 5th February 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1 Twelve years ago a Service (loosely described as “The Assize Service” for historical reasons) was held at St. Mary’s Church, Nottingham at 10.00 a.m. on the first day of each legal term, when High Court Judges came to sit in Nottingham. The High Sheriff, Chairman of the County Council, Lord Mayor, Coroner, Chief Constable and other such office holders were invited and normally attended, either personally or were represented by their deputies. It is primarily regarded as an event for the High Sheriff, Chairman of the County Council and the Lord Mayor.

Following the Service, the procession moved across the road to the Shire Hall where the Letters Patent were read and an address was given by the senior High Court Judge to the magistrates, one of whose representatives then attended (in alternate years a representative of the City and the County Bench).

Because the Service and ceremony took place on a Tuesday morning, congregation numbers fell and it was then agreed between those involved that the three Services should be amalgamated into one and that it should be held as an annual Legal Service on a Sunday at 10.45 a.m.

- 2.2 In September 2003, the former Administration Committee approved hospitality on alternative years in the Shire Hall when the Chairman of the County Council hosted a reception, and invitations were sent out

in joint names of the Chairman of the County Council and the High Sheriff, with the Chairman reading one of the Lessons.
The Chairman of the County Council has received a letter from the Under Sheriff, requesting that he co-host the Service on 22nd January, 2006.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The cost of providing hospitality for approximately 80 guests on 22nd January 2006 is £1,100 including VAT which would be funded from the County Hospitality Budget.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That consideration be given to the provision of hospitality in the Grand Jury Room at Shire Hall, Nottingham for approximately 80 guests at a cost of £1,100 including VAT.

5. Legal Services' Comments (KK)

- 5.1 The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to authorise hospitality to be offered by the County Council. The proposal in this report is therefore within the remit of this Committee.

6. Director of Resources Financial Comments (MB)

- 6.1 The financial implications are as outlined in the report.

Patricia Holt-Murphy
Head of Members Services

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Copy of letter from the Under Sheriff of Nottinghamshire