



meeting	ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE	
date	1 December 2004	agenda item number

## REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CULTURE & COMMUNITY

### **Invitation for Nottinghamshire County Council to participate in the fourth “Europe without Barriers” Sports Olympiad in Debrecen (Hungary) from June 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2005**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. The report seeks approval for the acceptance of an invitation from the Hungarian City of Debrecen, (a twin city which participated in the third E.W.B. Sports Olympiad in 2004 held in Jyvaskyla, Finland) to send a team of young people, athletes with disabilities and non-disabled, accompanied by 4 coach/supervisors, the Principal Officer (Sport and Disability), the Polish Liaison Officer and three County Councillors to participate in the fourth E.W.B. in June 2005.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Background**

2. Members may recall that N.C.C. participated in the first “Europe without Barriers” Sports Olympiad 2001 organised and hosted by Poznan City. On that occasion Hanover (German), Jyvaskyla (Finland), Nottinghamshire and Poznan competed in Basketball and Swimming activities for disabled and non-disabled athletes.
3. In September 2002 Nottinghamshire County Council hosted the second “Europe without Barriers” in which Jyvaskyla, Poznan, Wielkopolska Province and Nottinghamshire competed in Swimming and Boccia and table tennis activities.
4. In February 2004 Jyvaskyla (Finland) hosted a Winter Sports based third E.W.B. in which Nottinghamshire, Poznan (Poland), Debrecen (Hungary) a twin city of Jyvaskyla teams competed in swimming events and were introduced to a range of outdoor Winter Sports activities including Skiing, Skating and Tobogganing.
5. Debrecen (Hungary) has now invited Poznan, Nottinghamshire and Jyvaskyla to take part in the fourth E.W.B. from 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2005 with swimming again as a competitive sport and athletics as the second activity

for the event.

6. The invitation is based upon there being teams of 20 with 10 non-disabled and 10 with disabilities supervised directly by four adult coaches. Five other adults are invited on the basis that three would be elected representatives and two would be the Principal Officer (Sport and Disability) and the Polish Liaison Officer who have organised Nottinghamshire's previous participation and who attended the planning meetings for this event in Debrecen. The Principal Officer (Sport and Disability) will act as the overall team manager and will also present at the seminar on sport for disabled people.
7. The Principal Officer (Sport and Disability) and the Polish Liaison Officer attended a planning event and risk assessment study visit to Debrecen in October 2004. Both officers reported most favourably on the facilities and conditions under which this event would be organised and the benefits they envisaged for the young people.
8. Previous participation in E.W.B. has confirmed that an event for non-disabled and disabled athletes on an international basis has provided opportunities for Nottinghamshire's young people to benefit from an experience that encourages independence, integration, comradeship, leadership and the development in social skills in addition to the intrinsic merit of sporting competition. E.W.B. has proved to be a most successful opportunity for disabled and non-disabled young people to compete together in an international setting. For elected members, alongside the sporting competitions there will be opportunities in their programme to attend presentations on "Sport for the Disabled" by each participant country and learn about the policies and provision that underpins the different approaches to health, sport and disability.

### **Financial Implications**

9. For the planning event held in Debrecen in October 2004 attended by the Principal Officer (Sport and Disability) and Polish Liaison Officer travel costs covered transport to Heathrow and a flight to Budapest. Debrecen is some 2½ hours drive from Budapest and should that be the route taken costs would be as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Handicruiser to be provided for athletes travel	£ 240
People Carrier:	£ 300
Insurance (29 x £20)	£ 580
Subsistence (9 x £40)	£ 360
Air Fares (29 x £210.00)	<u>£6,090</u>
Total	£7,570

10. In view of the County Council elections in May 2005, it will not be possible at the current time to confirm the identities of councillor representatives. There could potentially therefore be an increased charge to reflect a change in the names on the councillors' tickets in late May. If this proves necessary that cost is estimated to be in the order of £50 per ticket.

11. Administration Committee is usually responsible only for applying the travel and accommodation elements of members and officers attending, with the approval for the athletes being a matter for the Chief Officer. However, in view of the nature and significance of this event, Committee is asked to give a single approval so that the whole picture is adequately represented.
12. In addition the Director of Culture and Community will be asked to agree a sum of money to cover specific needs for participating athletes. This is currently estimated at £600.
13. The planning meeting addressed all the anticipated issues of risk assessment, safety of the young athletes and the programme content. As on previous occasions the level of co-operation and commitment was a feature of discussions.
14. There is the prospect of one of the cheap no-frills air-lines introducing flights directly to Debrecen in early 2005. Should this happen then any advantage to be gained from these flights would be considered. This should obviously lead to a reduced overall cost if the flight schedules and the provisions met the needs of the party.
15. The costs would be met from the County Council's Twinning Budget established to support co-operation between N.C.C., Poznan City and Wielkopolska Province.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. 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**

1. That the invitation for Nottinghamshire County Council to participate in the "Europe without Barriers 2005" to be held Debrecan (Hungary) on 16<sup>th</sup> June – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2005 be accepted.
- 2(a) That approval be given for 4 coach/supervisors, the Sports Disability Officer and the Polish Liaison Officer to travel to Debrecan for the event.  
  
(b) That Committee determine Member participation in the visit
3. That it be noted that although the Travel and Accommodation policy requires approval from this Committee, any decision in respect of other expenditure as described in paragraph 12 is a matter for the Culture and Community Portfolio

### **M. BURROWS**

Director: Culture and Community

### **Legal Services' Comments (KK)**

The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve expenditure on travel and associated costs to be incurred and required by Members for the purposes of conducting County Council business. The proposal in this report in so far as it relates to Member travel only is within the remit of this Committee, however the Committee must satisfy itself that the decision falls within the Council's Travel and Accommodation Policy. Officer travel outside the UK for up to 4 days is a matter for the relevant Chief Officer rather than this Committee.

### **Head of Resources' Financial Comments(C.C)(P.B)**

The cost of up to £7,570 can be funded from the Twinning Budget within the leader portfolio.

### **Electoral Division(s) Affected**

Countywide

### **Background Papers Available for Public Inspection**

Initial e-mail from Debrecen 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004.

MM.0232.JM