

# report



meeting	Administration Committee	
date	21 September 2005	agenda item number

## REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

### Joint Youth Assembly project, Nottinghamshire and Département du Nord, France, 25-29 October 2005

#### Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for
  - (a) participation in the youth assembly project between the Rushcliffe and Département du Nord Youth Assemblies from 25 – 29 October 2005;
  - (b) the travel and accommodation necessary in connection with the event.

#### 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.
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 the 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. Following an initial approach by the Conseil General du Nord in 2002, officers met in Lille in 2003 to establish whether there were any opportunities for links between Nottinghamshire County Council and the Département du Nord. It was agreed that there were three areas where this might be possible: cultural activities, sporting links and how young people could be better involved in democratic processes.
6. The Département's Youth Parliament is well developed and has many parallels with Nottinghamshire. In June 2004 a group of 4 young people, two officers and the elected member with responsibility for the young people portfolio visited Nottinghamshire and met with members from the Bassetlaw, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe youth assemblies to share elements of practice and possible themes for future cooperation. It was agreed that future work would take the form of a health/ drugs issues project.

### **Aims of the project**

7. The joint group of young people will aim to:
  - Produce resource materials which can be used in Nottinghamshire and the Département du Nord for developing peer education around trends in cannabis use among young people.
  - Work with the drug prevention organisations, Face-it in Nottinghamshire and Espace de Prévention et d'Information sur les Conduites Addictives (EPICEA) in Le Nord, in devising appropriate material which can be used as part of their mobile resources and used in their work with, for example, school children, teachers and governors. There have been early discussions with Face-it and EPICEA around possible future work.
  - Bring everyone closer together to facilitate better relationships, understanding and trust
8. The theme of this project fits in with the 5 learning outcomes of Every Child Matters which has informed the Children Act: staying safe, being healthy, making a contribution, enjoying and achieving, economic well being.
9. It is proposed that the Nottinghamshire party will be 8 young people. The profile of the 8 strong group of young people is 5 female, 3 male; in the 13 – 15 age group; from the Rushcliffe youth assembly (RYA). The assembly is four years old and has over 100 members in the 11 – 18 age group. The young people will be accompanied and supervised by two qualified youth workers.

### **Project risk assessment and planning pre-visit**

10. The pre-visit was undertaken on 24-26 July 2005 by two officers from Culture and Community department. The risk assessment has been completed satisfactorily. The focus of the advance visit was on:
- Agreeing the aims of the project and the programme content for the main visit
  - Assessment of any anticipated risks for young people
  - General discussions about existing international work and the direction of possible future relations between the two authorities.

### **Preparation for the visit**

11. In preparation for the visit the group will:
- Research into evidence for the most commonly used drugs used by people in the 13 – 15 age range;
  - Translate into French documents including the RYA action plan;
  - Work to get the RYA website up and running by the end of September and then include a linking page to the Conseil General's web site and an information page to explain the joint work;
  - Undertake fund-raising activities to contribute towards the cost of social events and activities in France;
  - Attend French language and culture workshops;
  - Maintain regular email contact;
  - Develop ideas for an evening's social activity eg games and quiz;
  - Participate in the PEER education programme.

### **Programme for the visit**

12. Discussions with the Département du Nord about the details of the draft programme are still on-going but the programme will include the following elements. The young people will present their own research work into drugs usage in their own communities and look at what has been done so far. They will work in mixed groups and present their outcomes and proposals to staff and peers. They will work to agree a future work plan and set the timetable. There will be a one-day visit to the European Parliament in Brussels. There will be opportunities to organise social activities and to enjoy some free time in Lille.
13. During the advance visit it was emphasised that the President of the Conseil General du Nord, Bernard Derosier, sees the youth assembly project as a priority for his authority.
14. Départemental officers have indicated that other French départements and a number of their twinned regions have expressed an interest in some form of future involvement in this youth assembly project.

## **Travel and Accommodation requirements**

15. The costs associated with the event are estimated to be as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Coach to Ashford International station	£300
Travel by Eurostar, Ashford to Lille	£1000
Insurance	£150
Subsistence	£100
The total cost will be	£1550

16. Travel to and from Ashford International Station will be via a youth service fifteen seat coach and the cost represents fuel and staff time. The cost of Eurostar travel represents an estimate based on general information available at the time of writing this report. The actual cost will not become apparent until booking. Efforts will be made to take advantage of discounts and special arrangements for group travel which may reduce the costs significantly. It is normal practice for the hosting authority to meet the costs of accommodation and meals during international visits. The Conseil General has indicated that it will meet those costs. All other costs will be met from the County Council's international activities and partnerships budget.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That approval is given for travel by two officers who will travel with eight young people to take part in the youth assembly project between the Rushcliffe and Département du Nord Youth Assemblies from 25 – 29 October 2005

## **Legal Services' Comments**

The Administration Committee is responsible for approving expenditure on travel, accommodation and associated costs to be incurred and required by Members for the purpose of conducting County Council business. This Committee is also responsible for approving officer travel outside Europe or any travel in excess of four days. Approval for officer travel abroad for less than four days is a Departmental matter.

The proposal in this report, insofar as it is in accordance with the

Council's Travel and Accommodation Policy and relates to a Member and officers travelling in excess of four days, is in the remit of this Committee

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

The financial implications are as indicated in the report.

**Background Papers Available for Public Inspection**

None

**Electoral Division(s) Affected**

All divisions in the Rushcliffe district.