

 Nottinghamshire County Council	Report to Administration Committee
	20 March 2012
	Agenda Item: Urgent Item
REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER POLICY	
LOCALISM SEMINARS FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS	

Purpose of the Report

1. To request the approval of arrangements to facilitate two seminars being held for town and parish councils to discuss Localism in Nottinghamshire.

Information and Advice

2. The Council's Localism policy was approved by County Council on 26th January 2012. This includes a commitment to prepare a Framework for devolving services to parish and town councils seeking to deliver local services.
3. The Deputy Leader has agreed for the arrangement of two seminars which will provide the opportunity for engagement with parish and town councils on a draft Framework.
4. One seminar will be held in the north of the County at Harworth and Bircotes Town Council on 17th April 2012. The second seminar will be held in the south of the county at a Ruddington Parish Council venue, St. Peter's Rooms on 19th April 2012.
5. The Seminars will be Chaired by the Deputy Leader and co-hosted by the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils.
6. Invited delegates will include representatives from town and parish councils and County Councillors.
7. The Group Manager Policy will provide delegates with a detailed briefing session on The Localism Act 2011 and the County Council's Localism Policy. In addition, a different parish council will be attending each of the sessions to talk about Localism in their area. Harworth and Bircotes will be speaking at the northern seminar and Cropwell Bishop will be speaking at the southern seminar.
8. A structured workshop session will allow for parish and town councils input into the procedural mechanisms around how the Framework will operate in practice. Other areas of discussions will include key actions arising from the Localism policy such as the Lengthsman pilot and potential use of surplus small patches of County Council land.

Cost Implications

9. It is estimated that the overall cost of both events will come in at approximately £270. This will cover the cost of room hire and refreshments for between 50 and 60 delegates at the seminar being hosted in Ruddington.
10. This also includes the provision of the County Council mini-bus to the northern seminar at a cost of £140. This will accommodate up to 16 elected Members and Officers. It is expected that this will be more cost efficient than reimbursement of individual travel claims at around £32.40 per individual claim for the 72 mile round trip.
11. The mini bus could also be provided for the southern seminar at an additional cost of £90. However, it is estimated that it would be more cost efficient to reimburse individual travel claims at around £3.60 for the 8 mile round trip. This has not been included in the estimated cost of the events.
12. Apart from the travel costs outlined in paragraph 10, there are no other costs associated with the seminar being hosted in Harworth and Bircotes. This is because the Town Council has agreed to provide the facility and all refreshments free of charge.
13. The cost of the seminars will be met from the Policy Initiatives budget.

Other Options Considered

14. Alternative options considered including holding one seminar as opposed to two and hosting the southern seminar at County Hall. However these options did not provide a suitable option for effective engagement with the audience.

Reason for Recommendation

15. This is an important opportunity for the County Council to engage with parish and town councils on the implementation of a significant County Council policy. Feedback received during the sessions will help shape the implementation of key areas of the Localism policy.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That approval is given for the provision of arrangements for the two seminars as set out in the report.

Celia Morris
Group Manager, Policy

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Paula McManus ext 73753

Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/03/12)

17. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in the report. The Delegation to Administration Committee contained in Part III of the Council's Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, includes delegation to authorise hospitality to be offered by the County Council.

Financial Comments (MB 13/03/12)

18. The financial implications are outlined in paragraph 9 of the report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All