



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	18 February 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) Annual Conference – Llandudno 12-16 April 2004

Purpose of Report

1. This report requests approval from the Committee for representation at the above Conference.

Information and Advice

Background

2. It is the practice of the NASUWT to invite representatives of local education authorities to attend its annual conference. This year's conference will be held at the North Wales Theatre, Llandudno, from 12 April to 16 April 2004. The theme will be 'Involvement in Education and Conditions of Service'. It is expected that Charles Clarke, M.P., or David Miliband, M.P. will be one of the guest speakers.
3. The Committee is invited to consider whether the County Council should be represented at the Conference. In doing so regard needs to be had to the value to be obtained from attendance and whether the information and learning to be gained contributes to the achievement of the Council's Strategic Plan clearly. The Committee will also want to have regard to the relationship between the Council and the NASUWT and to the need to ensure continued good working relationships with this trade union.
4. If attendance is approved it is suggested that in addition to the Cabinet Member for Education, a small number of other members could be authorised to attend. It is normal practice to offer a place to the principal minority group. Further representation could therefore be on the basis of one Labour Group Member, one Conservative Member and one Officer from the Education Department in addition to the Cabinet Member for Education

5. The cost of attendance per Member is limited to accommodation and travel and subsistence as there are no registration fees for this conference. The cost per Member is estimated to in the region of £240 (hotel accommodation – four nights), £65 for travel and £120 subsistence.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. Responsibility for authorising attendance at a conference of this nature rests with the Administration Committee, working within the Travel and Conference Policy. All the travel and accommodation arrangements to be made will be in accordance with that policy, which indicates that public transport should normally be used (councillors may travel by first class rail) and that mid-range hotels of a good standard will be chosen within safe and reasonable access to where the conference is to take place. The Council also has the option of using the Conference hotel if the benefits outweigh any additional costs which may be involved.

Financial Implications

7. The costs identified will be met from the Members' Conference expenses which, for 2004/05 amounts to £6,011.

RECOMMENDATION

8. That the Committee consider whether it wishes to be represented at this conference in line with the suggested attendance in paragraph 4.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

Reasons for Recommendation

9. That Nottinghamshire County Council be represented at the NASUWT Conference.

Other Options Considered

10. No other options have been considered.

Executive Head of Democratic and Legal Services' Comments (EB/IR)

11. The decision to authorise these travel and conference arrangements must fulfil the criteria within the Council's travel and conference policy. The authority to make this decision is within the Constitutional Delegation to the Administration Committee.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (NDR)

12. The financial implications are set out in Section 7 of the report.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Invitation from the National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Nottinghamshire

M19C1038