



meeting

**Administration Committee**

date

30<sup>th</sup> September 2009

agenda item number

**5(b)**

## REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND INFORMATION

### 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Library Authorities Conference

### Bristol: Impact, Inclusion, Information : value of libraries in the lives of communities

#### Purpose of report

1. To consider the attendance of two Elected Members and one officer at the 2009 Public Library Authorities Conference in Bristol 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

#### Information and Advice

2. Approval is sought within the terms of the Council's Conference and Travel Policy for one Member of the Majority Group (the Cabinet Member for Culture and Community) and one Opposition Group Member and one officer to attend the Conference.
3. Attendance at / participation in this event has been considered under paragraph 3 of that policy and the following comments are offered:-

The authority has a statutory duty under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act to provide a library service for Nottinghamshire. This is the only national library conference specifically developed for Elected Members and public library professionals. The authority is required by statute to meet statutory obligations as defined by the act and in accordance with the guidance of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Public Libraries also contribute to the local area agreement and the authority's comprehensive area assessment.

4. The Public Library Authorities Conference 2009 will debate the current prospects for library services. The intention is to give delegates the opportunity to have their say in the future direction for public libraries. The conference will be topical and will give an update on the challenges, themes and major developments facing public libraries, and will aim to address three main themes : (1) Local democracy, local involvement, (2) Impacts and outcomes and (3) Healthy communities. In addition the conference includes the opportunity to visit local services that are innovative in developing and providing library services.

5. The conference will explore these themes to engage those responsible for political and managerial leadership, and for stewardship of public libraries in transforming services to meet the needs of all 21<sup>st</sup> century citizens.
6. The conference will be held at the The Grand Hotel, Bristol from 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Overnight accommodation will be required on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October.
7. The costs associated with the above event are as follows:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>To be met from</u>
Conference fee (Councillors)	£1144.00 (£572 x 2)	Members Conference Budget
Conference fee (Officer)	£572	Library Service's Revenue Budget
Accommodation	Included in Conference fee	
Subsistence	All meals included in Conference fee	

8. Travel by public transport or car will be undertaken depending on the requirements of delegates.
9. The County Council's representatives would be staying at the Conference Hotel so that they are closer to the business of the event, and also because there is no separate charge for accommodation and meals as this is an inclusive-fee conference.

### **Personnel Implications**

10. There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report.

### **Financial Implications**

11. The cost per delegate is £572.00 for Members which includes all conference fees, accommodation and meals during the conference dates. Additional costs will be incurred for travel. Members' conference costs are met from the Members Conference budget. One officer will be attending the conference and those costs will be met from the Library Service's revenue budget.

## **Equal Opportunities Implications**

12. There are no Equal Opportunities implications arising directly from this report, but the conference agenda usually addresses a number of equalities issues impacting on public libraries.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

13. There are no implications arising specifically from this report.

## **Recommendations**

14. That the County Council be represented by one member of the Majority Group (the Cabinet Member for Culture and Community), one Opposition Member and one officer at the Public Library Authorities Conference 2009.

## **Peter Gaw**

Head of Libraries, Archives and Information

## **Legal Services' Comments**

The Administration Committee is responsible for approving expenditure to be incurred for Member attendance at conferences and seminars including expenditure on travel, accommodation and associated costs. The proposal in this report, insofar as it is in accordance with the Council's Travel and Accommodation Policy and relates to Members, is within the remit of this Committee. Officer approval is a departmental matter.

## **Comments of the Service Director-Finance**

The financial implications are set out in the report. (MB 07/08/09)

## **Background papers available for public inspection**

PLA Conference Programme, full details of which are available on [www.cilip.org.uk](http://www.cilip.org.uk)

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

All