

report



meeting ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

date 7 June 2005

agenda item number

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Members' visit to the residential environmental education centres

Purpose of Report

1. This report proposes a visit by County Councillors to the residential Environmental Education Centres on Friday, 8 July 2005.

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 therefrom.
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. The County Council's Environmental Education Support Service provides a range of environmental education support to schools including two residential and four day-visit environmental education centres. From time to time Members have been invited to view the

work of the Service. The last organised Members' visit to the centres took place in September 2003.

6. This proposed visit is to the residential centres - Hagg Farm Outdoor Education Centre and St Michael's Environmental Education Centre, both located in the Peak District National Park in Derbyshire. Members will have the opportunity to view the centres and see pupils involved in environmental and outdoor activities. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
7. A particular invitation will be extended to new members and other County Councillors who have not seen the work of the centres first hand. The visit will aim to illustrate the quality and value of this provision in extending classroom based learning, in developing pupils' understanding of environmental issues, personal and social skills, self-confidence, self-esteem and motivation for learning.
8. It is useful that Members understand the unique nature of this provision, which links directly with pupils' curriculum and is highly valued by schools.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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.

Financial Implications

10. The anticipated cost of the visit will be between £250 and £500. This will cover transport, lunch and refreshments and will be dependent on the final numbers attending which will be known by the deadline of 17 June 2005. Costs will be met from the Education hospitality budget which, for 2005/06, totals £2,509.

Crime and Disorder implications

11. Learning experiences at the centres contribute to pupils' personal and social education and the development of respect for themselves, others and the environment.

RECOMMENDATION

12. That the Committee approves the proposed visit, open to all County Councillors, to the residential centres on Friday, 8 July 2005.

PAM TULLEY
Director of Education

Legal Services' Comments (LMc 31/05/05)

13. The Administration Committee have delegated authority to approve attendance at a range of events including any travel requirements. The Nottinghamshire County Council Travel and Accommodation Policy must be complied with.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (NDR/)

14. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

Nil.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Nottinghamshire

M19C1336