



meeting **Administration Committee**

date **6<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

agenda item number

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Library Authorities Conference Knowledge, Innovation, Understanding ... the emerging public library

#### Purpose of Report

1. To consider the attendance of two Elected Members and one officer to the 2005 Public Library Authorities Conference in Kenilworth.

#### 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 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 national library standards and impact measures. Public Libraries also contribute to the authority's CPA score.

4. The Public Library Authorities Conference 2005 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 aims to address questions such as:
  - When children, young people and families are at the top of the Government agenda what is the future for libraries? What can the growing generations of young people expect of libraries in the next ten years?

- How will libraries support education and make a meaningful contribution to the learning society and the knowledge economy? How should we make our investment effective? What can future technologies offer? Are literature and discourse a better platform for a creative service?
  - As the national strategy for public libraries (Framework for the Future) is rolled out into an action plan what will follow? Leadership, marketing, national partnerships, sustainable technology and modern library buildings ... what should we do to ensure continuous improvement?
  - What is the meaning of modernisation? What will make libraries important in national and local government? How will we get there and whose responsibility is it? What will our future leaders have as their vision?
5. The conference will be held at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2005.
6. The costs associated with the above event are as follows:-

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>To be met from</u></b>
Conference fee	£1,400 (£700 x 2) <i>(estimated)</i>	Members Conference Budget
Conference fee	£700 <i>(estimated)</i>	Library Service's Revenue Budget
Travelling expenses	By rail <i>(Nottingham to Coventry)</i> £42 (£21 x 2) or By road £64 (£32 x 2)	Members allowances
Travelling expenses	By Rail <i>(Nottingham to Coventry)</i> £21 or By road £25	Library Service's Revenue Budget
Accommodation	Included in Conference fee	
Subsistence	All meals included in Conference fee	

7. The travelling expenses shown above are for standard class rail although additional transport costs will be incurred from Coventry (the nearest railway station) to Kenilworth. Travel may, however, be made by road.
8. 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 as this is an inclusive-fee conference.

### **Personnel Implications**

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

### **Financial Implications**

10. The cost per delegate is £700 (estimated) 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**

11. 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**

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

### **Legal Services' Comments (KMS – 13.06.05)**

13. The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve Members attendance at conferences and seminars. The proposal in this report relating to Members is therefore within the remit of this Committee.

### **Director of Resources' Comments (CC/RWK)**

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

### **Recommendations**

15. That the County Council be represented by one Member of the majority group (Cabinet Member for Culture), one Opposition Member and one officer at the Public Library Authorities Conference 2005.

## **Background Papers Available for Public Inspection**

16. PLA Conference programme, details of which will be available on [www.cilip.org.uk](http://www.cilip.org.uk) in due course.

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

17. All

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