



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	23 April 2008	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, REGENERATION AND PROTECTION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE TRADING STANDARDS INSTITUTE

Purpose of Report

- 1 To outline the arrangements for this year's Annual Conference of the Trading Standards Institute and to consider representation at the Conference.

Information and Advice

- 2 The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) represents the professional interests of the Service. Its Annual Conference, which is specifically designed to enable local authorities to have a full involvement with the issues of the day, will take place 24-26 June 2008 at the Bournemouth International Centre, Bournemouth.
- 3 Each year the Conference attracts increasing numbers of delegates and the 2007 event was re-styled to appeal to the various stakeholders involved in the wider fields of consumer affairs. Hence the conference changed its title to 'Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards Conference and Exhibition'.
- 4 The themes of the Conference also reflect the wider agenda and reflect the Trading Standards contributions to national and local priorities and how the service can help local authorities improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of its communities.
- 5 Key themes will include:
 - Who Rules – Business or the Consumer
 - Regulators – Who Needs Them?
 - Fair Trade in Local Global Markets
 - Protecting the Health and Welfare of Citizens
 - Mini Theatre Sessions
 - Consumer Challenge Quiz
 - Young Consumer of the Year Competition
- 6 The Service Director Community Safety, Regeneration and Protection would recommend that the County Council is represented at this Conference as it is the only national Trading Standards event available that fully reflects all the interests of the local authorities. It is recommended that up to three County Councillors attend the Conference. Up to three Officers from the Trading Standards Service will be attending.

7 The estimated costs per delegate for Conference are as follows:

	£
Conference Fee	585.00
Travelling Expense	100.00
Subsistence	50.00
Accommodation	330.00

The figures shown for accommodation are in respect of rooms at a hotel located within a reasonable distance from the event. The costs, Members' travel, subsistence and accommodation costs will be met from the Members' travel budget. The Officer costs will be met from the Community Protection budget.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8 The report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and users. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the County Council be represented at the Trading Standards Institute Conference by up to 3 Members.

Richard Hodge

Service Director Community Safety, Regeneration and Protection

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. (KK 13/3/08)

Financial Comments of the Strategic Director (Resources) []

The financial consequences are noted in the report (DD 13/03/08)

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Conference details.

Electoral Divisions Affected

All