



meeting      ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

date            31<sup>st</sup> March 2004

agenda item number

## **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY PROTECTION)**

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EMERGENCY PLANNING SOCIETY BELFAST WATERFRONT HALL 21<sup>ST</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide details of this year's Annual Conference of the Emergency Planning Society, and to consider representation at the Conference.

#### **2. Information and Advice**

- 2.1 The Emergency Planning Society (EPS) is the professional body representing Emergency Planning Officers throughout the UK. It aims to:

- Promote the views of its members on issues of emergency planning;
- provide a forum for the study of effective planning and the management of local emergency preparation and response;
- influence policy related to emergency planning;
- encourage the professional development of its members.

- 2.2 Each year the EPS stages a showcase conference, which this year will take place at the Belfast Waterfront Hall, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

- 2.3 The theme for this years' Conference is "A New Beginning", which arises from the forthcoming introduction of the new Civil Contingencies Bill (currently going through Parliament).

- 2.4 Key topics for the conference this year include:

- North American Blackout
- European Civil Protection
- Civil Contingencies Bill
- Mass Fatalities
- Epidemics
- Business Continuity
- Press relations with Emergency Managers
- Web based warning systems
- UK benchmarks in Emergency Management

2.5 In addition, optional supplementary sessions will examine:

- Cross border exercises
- Casualty information databases
- Professional issues
- Crisis management
- Informing and warning the public
- Role of the Voluntary Sector
- Infection control procedures
- Mass contamination
- Mass evacuation
- Risk assessment and mitigation
- Press releases
- Business Continuity

2.6 In recent years the County Council has normally been represented at this conference by two or three Elected Members, accompanied by officers. Three officers will be attending the Conference this year. They are all members of the EPS.

2.7 In view of the content of this Conference, and the current climate of public concern over bio-terrorism, flooding and other possible emergencies, the Assistant Director (Public Protection) recommends that the County Council is represented at this Conference.

2.8 The costs associated with the above event are as follows:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
EPS Members (officers)	£328 (or £160 day rate)
Non-Members (Cllrs)	£400 (or £200 day rate)
Flights	£97.00 to £128.00
Accommodation	£90 to £120 per person per night
Subsistence	£17.00 per day per member

The total cost is therefore up to £3,417.00p These costs, plus transport, accommodation and other expenses will be met from within the Emergency Planning budget.

### **3. Statutory and Policy Implications**

3.1 This report covers all the issues required to be considered by the Council's Travel and Conference policy. Reasons, which support participation in this conference, are outlined above. Access and safety issues will be considered when making the detailed arrangements.

### **4. Executive Head of Democratic and Legal Services' Comments (IR 2.3.04)**

4.1 There are local government powers that enable the attendance at such events where doing so will help facilitate or is conducive to the delivery of services to the people of Nottinghamshire. The decision to participate in this event must fulfil the criteria within the County Council's Travel and Conference Policy. The authority to

make this decision is within the County Council's Constitutional Delegation to the Administration Committee.

**5. Director of Resources' Financial Comments (CC/RWK)**

5.1 The financial implications are set out in the report.

**6. Recommendations**

6.1 It is recommended that this year the County Council be represented at the Emergency Planning Society Annual Conference by up to three Elected Members.

**7. Background Papers Available for Inspection**

7.1 It is anticipated that a full prospectus containing a programme of events and further details will be available shortly, from the Emergency Planning Society.

**8. Electoral Divisions Affected**

8.1 All.

**Richard Hodge**  
**Assistant Director (Community Protection)**