



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	19 January 2005	agenda item number

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

### **National Union of Teachers Annual Conference 2005**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To seek approval for:
  - attendance at the National Union of Teachers Annual Conference from 25-29 March 2005 at the Sage Centre, Gateshead;
  - the travel, accommodation and other arrangements necessary in connection with the event.

#### **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 (inc 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 National Union of Teachers Annual Conference will be held at the Sage Centre Gateshead from 25-29 March 2005. The conference is an opportunity for Members and Union representatives from Nottinghamshire to have formal and informal contact with other representatives from around the country together with senior civil

servants from the DFES and representatives from employee organisations to discuss relevant educational issues.

6. Guest speakers at the conference will include the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers and several international educational professionals. It is also usual for the Secretary of State for Education together with representatives of other political parties to address Conference.
7. The Conference will open on the first evening with the installation of the new President, Hilary Bills. The following morning the new President will make her inaugural speech after which Conference motions will be debated.
8. Nottinghamshire has in the past been represented by the Cabinet Member for Education, one Labour Group Member, one Liberal Democrat Member and one Education Officer.

### **Travel and Accommodation requirements**

9. The County Council's representative(s) will require hotel accommodation and rail travel. The costs per Member associated with the event are as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
	£
Conference or event fee	-
Travelling expenses	95
Travelling expenses to and from the train station	30
Four nights accommodation at the Conference Hotel	516
Subsistence	60
	-----
	<b>701</b>
	-----

10. Costs will be met from the Education Department's budget for Members' conference expenses which, for 2004/05 amounts to £6,011.
11. The travelling expenses shown above are for standard return class rail travel and to and from the stations.
12. The County Council's representatives will be staying at the Conference Hotel so that they are closer to the business of the event bearing in mind they will be attending a range of debates. If the delegates are unable to be at the conference hotel, Members' Services will book rooms at a hotel located within a reasonable distance from the event.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report takes account of the requirements of the travel and accommodation policy.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

14. That the Committee decide whether it wishes to be represented at the National Union of Teachers Annual Conference to be held in Gateshead from 25-29 March 2005.

### **Note:**

**Following discussion with The Chair and Leader of the main Minority Group, it is suggested that, the Committee agree representation at this conference, 3 places should be reserved, with those attending being The Cabinet for Education (or representative), one other Councillor and an Officer from the Education Department.**

**PAM TULLEY**

Director of Education

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

15. That Nottinghamshire County Council be represented at the National Union of Teachers Annual Conference.

### **Legal Services' Comments (JF/07.01.2005)**

16. As set out in the report the Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve the recommendations. The committee must consider what benefits will accrue to the authority by attendance at the conference, how many delegates should be sent and whether the benefits accruing can be obtained by any other means. The committee must also consider whether the proposed travel arrangements are cost effective.

### **Director of Resources' Financial Comments (NDR)**

17. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 9 and 10 of this report.

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

Invitation from the National Union of Teachers.

M19C1247