



meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

date **31st March 2004**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY PROTECTION)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE TRADING STANDARDS INSTITUTE

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 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 between 22 – 24 June in Manchester.
- 2.2 The theme of this year's Conference will be "Investing in a Better Future", a title that clearly defines the purpose and vision of the Trading Standards Institute.
- 2.3 Firstly the future of the Trading Standards Service depends on its young officers and the prospective entrants of today. Hence it is essential that the problems of recruiting to the Service and the retention of experienced people are addressed along with the promotion of different ways of doing "the job". Only by doing so will local government and the Trading Standards Service provide the public with a Service that meets the demands of e-commerce, globalisation, regionalisation and the ever growing number of government initiatives such as Consumer Direct, National Performance Framework and Peer Review.
- 2.4 Sessions, debates and workshops will discuss the key areas of the day. Key note sessions will include;
- TSI Vision
 - The Ministerial Address
 - National Agendas, Local Issues
 - Consumer Challenges
 - Door Step Selling
 - Finance / Consumer Credit
 - Consumer Safety and Health
 - Hitting the Headlines
 - Promoting Excellence
 - Young Consumer of the Year

2.5 The Assistant Director (Community Protection) would recommend that the County Council are represented at this Conference as it is the only national Trading Standards event available that fully reflects all the interests of local authorities. Two Officers will be attending.

2.6 **Financial Implications**

The estimated costs per delegate for Conference are as follows: These costs will be met from within the Trading Standards budget,

Conference Fee	£641.55
*Travelling Expenses	£ 80.00
Subsistence	£ 36.00
Accommodation	£225.00

*Travel is likely to be by private car.

3. **Statutory and Policy Implications**

3.1 The recommendation made follows the requirements of the Travel and Conference Policy. Private cars are to be used as this is a cheaper travel option on this occasion. Officers who use their own vehicles for County Council business are required to have the appropriate motor insurance. Access and safety issues, as well as cost, will be considered when choosing a hotel.

4. **Executive Head of Democratic & 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 Constitution's Delegation to the Administrative 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 the County Council be represented at the Trading Standards Institute by up to three elected Members.

7. **Background Papers Available for Inspection**

Conference Details.

8. **Electoral Divisions Affected**

8.1 All.

Richard Hodge
Assistant Director (Community Protection)