



meeting **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

date **27 APRIL 2004**

from: **Director of Environment**

agenda item number

**7**

## **ATTENDANCE AT SUMMER SCHOOL**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To seek the views of the Committee on the attendance of Members at the Planning Summer School.

### **Information and Advice**

2. Members will recall last year that approval was given to attendance at the Planning Summer School organised by the Royal Town Planning Institute.
3. This year's Summer School will be held at the University of Reading. Councillors' School runs from 3 – 7 September.
4. There are as yet no specific details as to what topics will be covered, but it can be expected that a broad range of issues will be addressed, which will be of interest and benefit to Members. It would seem likely that recent changes to legislation and procedure will be covered.
5. Members of Planning Committee need to be aware of the changing nature of planning legislation, particularly that emerging from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill. It will also be an opportunity to be informed about best practice across a wide spectrum of activities, as well as offering Members an almost unique opportunity to discuss relevant planning matters with their peers from other Local Planning Authorities up and down the country.
6. It is expected that any Member who does attend should produce a written report for discussion by Members at the first available meeting after the school. Attendance at Summer School, and the subsequent sharing of the information with the entire Committee, can be looked upon as part of the on-going initiative on Member training.
7. Cost will be approximately £595 (as this is a residential course this sum includes conference fee, accommodation and meals) per place funded on a 50/50 basis

between the Environment Department and Members' Services. In addition, it is anticipated that travel costs will be £125 per Member.

8. In accordance with the Constitution, the responsibility for approving conference attendance rests with the Administration Committee. It is proposed that any views on the matter which this Committee has been referred to the Administration Committee for consideration at its meeting on 19 May 2004.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

10. It is RECOMMENDED that Committee consider the attendance of Members at Summer School, University of Reading from 3 to 7 September, and convey its views to the Administration Committee.

PETER WEBSTER  
Director of Environment

### **Director of Resources' Financial Comments**

The cost of the Member attendance at the Planning Summer School needs to be contained within Resources & Development budgets. [DJK 8.4.04]

### **Legal Comments**

Noted, subject to financial approval. [SHB 7.4.04]

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

Conference details.

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

All

EPD.NEH/ME/EP4500

13 February 2004 (6/04/04) (13/04/04)