



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	19 January 2005	agenda item number

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Invitation for the Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council to meet the President of the Departement du Nord

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks approval for the acceptance of an invitation to the Leader from the President of the Departement du Nord to visit Lille to consider the development of cooperation between Nottinghamshire County Council and the Departement du Nord.

Information and Advice

Background

2. Following an initial approach by the Departement du Nord in 2002, officers met in Lille in 2003 to establish whether there were any opportunities for links between Nottinghamshire County Council and the Departement du Nord. It was agreed that there were three areas where this might be possible: cultural activities, sporting links and how young people could be better involved in democratic processes.
3. The Departement's Youth Parliament is well developed and has many parallels with Nottinghamshire. In June 2004 a group of 4 young people, two officers and the elected member with responsibility for the young people portfolio visited Nottinghamshire and met with members from the Bassetlaw, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe youth assemblies to share elements of practice and possible themes for future cooperation. It was agreed that future work would be in the form of a health issues project run by young people for young people. Discussions are now taking place on how this might be taken forward.
4. Our Sports Service has arranged a link up between the Nottingham Forest Football Club junior squad and a local team in Lille.
5. The President of the Departement du Nord has invited the Leader of the County Council to Lille. The purpose of the visit would be to listen to what the President has to propose for future cooperation between the two authorities.

6. Should the visit be approved, further discussions will be held with the President of the Departement to fix a date. At this stage, it is anticipated that the visit will be for two nights/ three days.

Financial Implications

7. In order to travel to Lille, the costs would be as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Estimate for travel x 3 by Eurostar, Nottingham to Lille	£630
Insurance (3 x £15)	£45
Subsistence and meals during travel to and from Lille	£270
Total	£945

The overall cost would be met from the County Council's budget for international activities and partnerships. The Departement du Nord as the host would cover in-country costs of travel, food and accommodation.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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 described in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

9. That:-
- (a) The invitation for Nottinghamshire County Council to visit Lille be accepted and that the Leader of the County Council, the Leader of the Conservative Group and one officer be authorised to travel.
 - (b) The budget expenditure to support this visit be approved.

Legal Services Comments

The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve expenditure on travel and associated costs to be incurred and required by Members for the purposes of conducting County Council business. The proposals in this report insofar as they relate to Members are therefore within the remit of this Committee. Approval for officer travel abroad for four days or less is a matter for the relevant Chief Officer and department.

Head of Resources' Financial Comments (C.C) (P.B)

The financial implications are outlined in the report.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Countywide

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Letter dated 17 November from Le President of Departement du Nord.

M. BURROWS

Director: Culture and Community