



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	1 December 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

North of England Education Conference 2005

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for:
 - attendance at the North of England Education Conference from 5-7 January 2005 at the University of Manchester
 - 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 there from.
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 (including the 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 web-site.

Reasons for attendance

5. The North of England Conference will be hosted by The Centre for Educational Leadership at the University of Manchester from 5-7 January 2005. Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education and Skills has said "I am delighted that in 2005 the North of England Conference will be coming home to Manchester". The NEEC is the UK's premier education conference and its title belies the fact that it is actually a UK wide conference and is rightly seen as the largest and most prestigious annual education event.

6. Guest speakers will include the Secretary of State Charles Clarke, Peter Senge creator of 'The Learning Organisation', Benjamin Zander Conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and Dame Patricia Collarbone, National College for School Leadership.
7. The Conference will bring together some of the UK's leading politicians and educational professionals and will examine how higher education institutions, schools and LEAs can collaborate to develop leadership potential and to lead education improvement. It will have as its theme 'Leading Together' and all seminars and exhibitions will be held at the Renold Building at the Manchester Conference Centre.
8. Nottinghamshire has traditionally been a supporter of the North of England Conference and, indeed, was host LEA in 1988. If the Committee wishes to be represented at the 2005 Conference it is necessary to nominate delegates at this meeting. At the 2004 Conference in Belfast the Committee was represented by three members from the Labour Group, one member from the Liberal Democrat Group and one 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:-

Description	Amount	To be met from
Conference or event fee	£525	The Education Department members' conferences budget which is £6,011
Travelling expenses	£ 34	
Two nights Accommodation At the Conference Hotel	£230	
Subsistence	£ 30	
	————— £819 —————	

10. The travelling expenses shown above are for standard return class rail travel.
11. 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 sessions. 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 This could cost up to £115 a night, giving a total cost per person of £819.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. 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

13. That the Committee decide whether it wishes to be represented at the North of England Conference to be held in Manchester from 5-7 January 2005 by the Cabinet Member, 2 Labour Group Members, 1 Conservative Group Member, 1 Liberal Democrat Member and 1 Officer.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

Reasons for Recommendation

14. Nottinghamshire County Council has always been represented at and a supporter of the North of England Conference.

Legal Services' Comments (JF)

15. The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve this recommendation. In reaching its decision the committee must consider what benefits will accrue to the authority by attendance and whether such benefits can be obtained by other means.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (PWH)

16. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 9 of the report.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Information from the North of England Conference.

M19C1207