



meeting Administration Committee

date 7th June 2005

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, REGENERATION

ACTE Association of European Textile Communities (ACTE)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the attendance of a member and one officer at one General Assembly meeting and 2 to 3 Executive meetings of ACTE during 2005/06.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Background and Objectives of ACTE

2. ACTE is a non-profit making Association set up in 1991 at Guimareas, Portugal and brings together more than 50 local authorities within textile/clothing regions in Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Belgium, UK, Croatia and Greece.
3. ACTE's aims are to encourage European policies to be adopted in order to modernise the sector within a competitive environment and create links and partnerships between European companies and textiles regions.
4. The activities carried out by ACTE have been numerous, both at a political level through a number of policy statements and at a local level through economic, social/cultural development programmes,
5. Cllr Chris Winterton is currently the UK Vice-President of ACTE and Aija Gagans acts as the UK National Co-coordinator for ACTE.
6. ACTE, through an invitation from the European Commission, is participating in the High Level Group on the future of textiles after the enlargement of the EU and the liberalisation in 2005. ACTE is leading a working group on regional policy. It will also participate in the seminar on

the future of textiles after 2005, organised by Commissioner Pascal Lamy in the European Commission in Brussels on 5th and 6th May.

7. Resulting from this ACTE holds regular General Assembly/ Executive meetings to achieve and promote the objectives. The next confirmed meetings planned so far are the General Assembly to be held in Spain in July 2005 and the executive meeting in Croatia in October 2005.
8. The last Executive meeting was held in March 2005 at the Nottinghamshire International Clothing Centre. Twenty delegates attended the meeting from the member countries.
9. Where possible, ACTE offer to reimburse the cost of accommodation and expenses at such meetings for Councillor Winterton and flight costs are kept to a minimum. A further 400 Euros are reimbursed annually for Councillor Winterton on proof of receipts for activities undertaken on behalf of ACTE. Meals within the programme for the officer are met by ACTE.

Costs

10. The approximate costs associated with each meeting are as follows based on a three day stay:

Description	Amount
Flights from East Midlands where possible	£200 per person approx.
Subsistence	£17 per day per member
Accommodation	£90 maximum for officer per night
Travel to and from airport and car parking	£60 approx. per person

11. The total cost for the member, per meeting, will be approximately £277 and £440 for the officer whose costs will be met through the Nottinghamshire International Clothing Centre budget in the Regeneration portfolio.

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. It is recommended that approval be given for the attendance of Councillor Winterton and one accompanying officer at each of the General Assembly and Executive ACTE meetings during 2005/06.

Nigel Hamshere
Assistant Director, Regeneration
(Contact Officer: Aija Gagans)

Director of Resources Financial Comments (CC/PB)

The financial implications are outlined in the report.

Executive Head of Democratic & Legal Services' Comments

Approval for travel abroad falls within the delegations to the Administration Committee. The Council has powers under the Local Government Act 2000 to do anything likely to improve the economic, social or environmental well being of its area or of people within its area. The Council lists amongst its priorities, culture, environment and the community. The Committee must be satisfied that the proposals and recommendations in this report fall within the provisions of the statutory power and will improve the economic, social or environmental well being of the area and in doing so the Committee must have regard to the matters set out in the Council's Community Strategy.(JA 16.05.05)

Background Papers Available for Inspection

- Minutes of the Sabadell General Assembly
- Sabadell Declaration
- High Level Working Group results

Electoral Divisions Affected

All