



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	1 February 2006	agenda item number

Report of the Assistant Director (HR)

SOCPO CONFERENCE: 29 - 31 MARCH 2006

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to consider attendance at the Society of Chief Personnel Officers in Local Government (SOCPO) annual conference in Brighton on 29 to 31 March 2006.

SOCPO Conference

2. This annual event is one of the largest events for public sector HR Directors, senior managers and other key decision makers, including elected members. It offers the opportunity to learn about the latest developments in the field of human resources from outstanding national and international speakers. Speakers this year include Sir Michael Bichard, Sir Digby Jones, Director General of the CBI, Barry Quirk Chief Executive London Borough of Lewisham and President of SOLACE, Martin Tiplady, Director of HR , Metropolitan Police.
3. Although at the time of writing this report, the programme for the event has not been finalised, it is anticipated that the topic areas will cover cutting-edge HR developments which are highly relevant to local authorities and Nottinghamshire County Council as a good employer.

4. The costs associated with the conference are as follows:

	£	
Conference/accommodation fee	835	Socpo member
	1045	non member
Travelling Expenses (Standard class rail fare)	131	per person

Statutory and Policy Implications

5. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder, Human Rights and those using relevant services. No specific issues arise out of the proposals in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That consideration is given to attendance at the SOCPO Annual Conference from 29 – 31 March 2006. In previous years 4 councillors (3 Labour and 1 Conservative) and the Assistant Director (HR) have attended. The Committee has discussed previously the level of representation at the annual SOCPO conference and members are therefore requested to indicate the number of councillors to attend. The approval for the Assistant Director to attend is a matter for the Director of Resources.

The estimated cost of the conference, including conference fees, travel and accommodation is £5,670.

Reasons for Recommendation

7. As in previous years, the issues which will be considered are highly relevant to the development of a progressive HR strategy and supporting personnel policies within the County Council.

Other options considered

8. The only other option is non-attendance. The report describes the reasons why the business of the conference supports the strategic priorities of the Council.

Jack Markiewicz
Assistant Director (HR)

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (MB 12.1.06)

The costs of members attending the SOCPO conference as outlined in the report will be met from the budget for Members Conference Expenses in the Leader's portfolio. The cost of the officer attending will be met from the Corporate HR budget in the Resources Portfolio. Members travel costs will be met from the Members' travel budget in the Leaders' Portfolio.

Legal Services Comments (JF)

The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve attendance and travel to this conference in accordance with the Travel and Conference policy. The committee must consider what benefits will accrue to the authority at this conference. Whether it is necessary for more than one person to attend and whether the benefits that accrue from attendance can be gained in any other way.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Conference Publicity – To follow