



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	11 May 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Pre dinner reception for delegates to the Nottingham Early Years Conference – 8 July 2004

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval for the County Council to host a pre-dinner drinks reception at the Nottingham Early Years Conference, to be held on 8 July 2004.

Information and Advice

Background

2. The Nottingham Early Years Conference is a two-day event to be held at the East Midlands Conference Centre at Nottingham University. It is of national standing organised by the National Children's Bureau, the Council for Awards in Care and Education (CACHE) and the Educational Supplier NES Arnold, and has been held every two years since 1988.
3. The conference will be opened by Baroness Helena Kennedy and will be addressed by a Government minister. There will be contributions from 12 keynote and workshop speakers. The themes of the conference this year are:
 - supporting children's learning in the early years
 - recruitment and retention of staff
 - listening and talking to children.
4. The County Council has hosted a pre-dinner drinks reception at the previous three conferences in 1998, 2000 and 2002. In 2002, Councillor Michael Storey attended and gave a short welcoming speech to the conference delegates. He also attended the dinner. It is anticipated that Councillor Storey will attend the reception and dinner this year as Cabinet Member for Education and Chair of the Nottinghamshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

Statutory and Policy Implications

5. 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. Members' attention is however drawn to the following:-

Financial Implications

6. The cost to the County Council for the reception on the previous occasion was £286 for approximately 200 delegates. The organisers are expecting a slightly larger attendance at the conference this year and the cost of this year's reception is expected to be approximately £300 - £400. It is anticipated that, as in previous years, the cost will be met from the County hospitality budget.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That approval be given for the provision of a pre dinner reception at the Nottingham Early Years Conference on 8 July 2004, up to a cost of £400, and for Councillor Storey to attend the conference to welcome delegates on behalf of the County Council.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

Legal Services' Comments (JF)

8. The Administration Committee has the authority to agree the recommendations in the report.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (NDR)

9. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Nil.

M19C1094