



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	15 March 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

National Union of Teachers Annual Conference 2006

Purpose of report

1. To seek approval for a Member and an officer to attend the National Union of Teachers Annual Conference from 14-18 April 2006 at the Riviera Conference Centre, Torquay and that the travel, accommodation and other arrangements necessary in connection with the event be also approved.

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 therefrom.
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 (inc 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 National Union of Teachers Annual Conference will be held at the Riviera Conference Centre Torquay from 14-18 April 2006. The conference is an opportunity for Members and union representatives from Nottinghamshire to have formal and informal contact with other representatives from around the country together with senior civil servants from the DfES and representatives from employee organisations to discuss relevant educational issues.

6. Guest speakers at the Conference will include the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers and several international educational professionals. It is also usual for the Secretary of State for Education together with representatives of other political parties to address Conference.
7. The Conference opens on the first evening with the installation of the new President who, on the following morning, makes their inaugural speech after which Conference motions will be debated.
8. Nottinghamshire has in the past been represented by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, one Labour Group Member, one Liberal Democrat Member and one Education 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
	£
Conference or event fee	-
Travelling expenses	98
Travelling expenses to and from the train station	30
Four nights accommodation at the Conference Hotel	520
Subsistence	60

	708

10. The cost for the Member's attendance will be met from the Education Department's budget for Members' conference expenses which, for 2006/07 amounts to £6,269.
11. The travelling expenses shown above are for standard return class rail travel and to and from the stations.
12. 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 debates. The accommodation is to be arranged by the NUT but if the delegates are unable to stay at the conference hotel, the NUT will book rooms at a hotel located within a reasonable distance from the event.

Statutory and policy implications

13. This report takes account of the requirements of the travel and accommodation policy.

RECOMMENDATION

14. That approval be given for a Member and an officer to attend the National Union of Teachers Annual Conference from 14-18 April 2006 at the Riviera Conference Centre, Torquay and that the travel, accommodation and other arrangements necessary in connection with the event be also approved.

PAM TULLEY

Director of Education

Reasons for recommendation

15. That Nottinghamshire County Council be represented at the National Union of Teachers Annual Conference.

Legal Services' comments (LM/02.03.2006)

16. The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve members' attendance at conferences. All attendance and travel must be in accordance with the Council's Travel and Conference policy.

Director of Resources' financial comments (KJH)

17. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 9 and 10 of this report.

Background papers available for inspection

Invitation from the National Union of Teachers.

M19C1507