



meeting Administration Committee

date 7 November 2007

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES

Prevention of and Fight Against Crime: Lobbying European MPs

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for:
 - a) the attendance of the portfolio holder for Community Safety and Partnerships on a visit to Brussels (with the Chair of the Police Authority and a police officer) to meet and lobby European MPs and key European Union officers in order to seek Europa funding for the Nottinghamshire Business Crime Reduction Initiative
 - b) the travel and accommodation necessary in connection with the visit.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council has played an important part in supporting the successful AGIS project, Tackling Drugs-Reducing Crime. This is a European Commission (EC) funded research project, under the framework of the AGIS Programme; helping European Union (EU) Member States working in the Criminal Justice field co-operate in criminal matters and fight crime. Nottinghamshire County Council has supported this successful project from its inception and the project has recently won a national award.
3. While the AGIS funding regime has finished, there is an opportunity to develop a new project with European partners related to business crime reduction. The County Council has supported the Business Crime Reduction Initiative, which is now achieving excellent results across the county, and is keen to promote the project and to enable access to potentially significant funding now being made available through the EU.
4. Towards this end a joint Police/County Council visit to Brussels is proposed to undertake the necessary lobbying of European MPs and key officials, which will be essential if the initial bid is to go forward successfully.

5. It is proposed that the Portfolio holder for Community Safety and Partnerships should accompany the Chair of the Police Authority, together with a Police officer, to undertake the visit.
6. The visit is proposed from Sunday 18th November to Tuesday 20th November, involving two nights accommodation. The total costs of the visit (travel, accommodation etc) would be kept within a limit of £500 per individual. The estimated costs for the visit are as follows:

Travel	£170	To be met from Members' Allowances budget
Accommodation	£250	To be met from Members' Allowances budget
Subsistence etc	<u>£80</u>	To be met from Members' Allowances budget
	£500	
7. It is proposed that the arrangements are made for the whole party's travel and accommodation by the County Council, with appropriate recharges being made to the Police Authority.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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 legal and financial comments below.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that approval is given for up to £500 from the Safer Communities Budget to be utilised to cover the costs of Portfolio holder's participation in the lobbying visit to Brussels, as outlined in the report.

Michael Burrows
Strategic Director, Communities

Legal Comments (LM 06/11/07)

The Administration Committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report. All arrangements must be in accordance with the Travel and Accommodation Policy.

Strategic Director (Resources) Financial Comments (MB 6/11/07)

The financial implications are outlined in the report.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All