



meeting	ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	
date	19 January 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Follow Up Report on the Invitation for Nottinghamshire County Council to participate in the fourth “Europe without Barriers” Sports Olympiad in Debrecen (Hungary) from June 16th-19th 2005

Purpose of Report

1. To address points raised at the previous Committee in the consideration of the report on the invitation from the Hungarian City of Debrecen, (a twin city of Poznan) to participate in the fourth Europe Without Barriers Sports Olympiad.

Information and Advice

2. The report to this Committee on 1 December (attached) sought approval for the acceptance of an invitation from the Hungarian City of Debrecen (a twin city of Poznan) to participate in the fourth Europe Without Barriers Sports Olympiad in June 2005. The original report proposed sending a team of young people, athletes with disabilities and non-disabled, accompanied by 4 coach/supervisors, the Principal Officer (Sport and Disability), the Polish Liaison Officer and three County Councillors. Committee approved the visit subject to the Head of Culture and Community being asked to consider and report back on the necessity for the Polish Liaison Officer to accompany the party.
3. The role of the Polish Liaison Officer is considered to be quite distinct from that of supervising/ managing the team. Each of the four participants, Jyvaskyla (Finland), Poznan (Poland), Debrecen (Hungary) and Nottinghamshire has worked through their Liaison Officer in setting up the planning event, drawing up the overall programme, organising the travel and then delivering the event.
4. The event has, as its focus, the participation of young people in the Sports Olympiad. However, the co-operation/partnership between the four partners leads to there being a specific role for elected members at the event and the Polish Liaison Officer will work with the elected members of the partner cities to ensure that opportunities are taken to maximise the partnership benefits from the event in relation to the County Council's partnership link with Poznan.

5. The programme for the elected representatives is different from that of the athletes and their supervisors. The teams have training sessions that the elected representatives do not attend and will take meals at different venues. The elected members programme will include sessions led by the host city, which are expected to focus on aspects of Debrecen's development that the host feels might have wider benefits for the other partners. The four Liaison Officers will have a sense of the context of the overall partnerships that will assist in advising members on these occasions.
6. At certain civic events it will be the Liaison Officers who will be in a position to advise the host city and work in partnership as a team to secure the delivery of the overall event. This will involve work prior to the visit and also amendments to the delivery of the programme during the event itself. There will also be the issue of whether there would be value to Nottinghamshire and its partnership link with Poznan in holding a similar event in future and whether there should be a change in the event's emphasis and content.
7. The smooth delivery of the Europe without Barriers event has been achieved over the past three occasions in Poznan, Nottinghamshire and Jyvaskyla because the Liaison Officers have brought together the sports events element, managed by a Sports Officer, with the civic, cultural and political elements of the programme to the benefit of all the partners, including the County Council. It is that expertise and experience that the Liaison Officers contribute and for which both sports team managers and elected representatives have been grateful in the past. It is a real contribution, before, during and after the event as themes from the programme lead to follow-up activities to the benefit of Nottinghamshire and its partnership link with Poznan.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attendance of the Polish Liaison Officer at the fourth "Europe without Barriers" Sports Olympiad in Debrecen (Hungary) from June 16th-19th 2005 be confirmed.

MICK BURROWS
Director of Culture and Community

Legal Services' Comments (KK)

The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve expenditure on travel and associated costs to be incurred and required by Members for the purposes of conducting County Council business. The proposal in this report in so far as it relates to Member travel only is within the remit of this Committee, however the Committee must satisfy itself that the decision falls within the Council's Travel and Accommodation Policy. Officer travel outside the UK for up to 4 days is a matter for the relevant Chief Officer rather than this Committee.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments(C.C)(P.B)

The total cost of the event of up to £7,570, including the attendance of the Polish Liaison Officer, can be funded from the International Activities and Partnerships Budget within the Leader portfolio.

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Countywide

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Initial e-mail from Debrecen 1st October 2004.