report



meeting ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE date 20 October 2004 agenda item no

Report of the Assistant Director of Environment (Transportation)

COALFIELD RESTORATION – LANDMARK STATUE

Purpose of Report

1. To consider a visit of Councillor Terry Butler to inspect the mould former of a mining statue, such that details of the statue can be confirmed prior to it being cast.

Information and Advice

- 2. Approval is sought within the terms of the Council's Conference and Travel Policy for Councillor Terry Butler to carry out the final inspection of the mould former for a statue to be erected at a former colliery site.
- 3. The County Council is now coming to the end of an eight-year management process whereby it has restored eight former coalfield sites to public open space. The cost of the overall project is approximately £15m, the majority of which was paid to the County Council by the Coal Authority. All of the sites restored are now in their maintenance period and are due to be handed over to Forestry Enterprise to be managed for the next 99 years as public open space and for the growing of commercial timber. As part of the overall project, over one million trees were planted on the eight sites, which represented one of the largest planting programmes ever undertaken in this Country.

The Visit

4. At the Silverhill Site, funding has been obtained from a local environmental trust and Building Better Communities monies to commemorate the eight collieries that have now closed in the form of a statue of a miner and associated plaques. The site chosen for the statue at Silverhill is the highest point in the County.

5. After an extensive period of public consultation and local exhibitions a preferred statue was scheduled and the pre-mould is now complete and this needs to be inspected and approved before the casting can be arranged. It is therefore proposed that Councillor Terry Butler, a previous miner and who has been overseeing this project since its inception visit the Sculptor's Workshop which is in the New Forest in Hampshire to approve the pre-mould or agree any final modification.

Costs

6. The costs associated with Councillor Terry Butler inspecting the mould former are as follows:-

Travelling Expenses	£100.00
Accommodation	£115.00
Subsistence	£24.84

The travelling expenses shown are to share a car with Officers, mileage at the casual car users rate.

Funding

- 7. The costs, approximately £250, will be funded within the Environment Revenue Budget.
- 8. As the location of the mould is in the Sculptor's Workshop located in the New Forest, Hampshire it is proposed to stay one night at a local Hotel.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of Finance, Equal Opportunities, Personnel, Crime and Disorder (Community Safety), and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report. Attention is, however, drawn to specifics as follows:-

Equal Opportunities Implications

10. Disabled access will be provided at the site.

RECOMMENDATION

11. Committee approves Councillor Terry Butler carrying out an inspection of the mould former in the Sculptor's Workshop in the New Forest on Monday 8 November 2004, prior to the statue being cast.

Legal Services Comments

12. The Administration Committee has the delegated authority to approve expenditure on accommodation, travel and associated costs to be incurred and required by Members for the purposes of conducting County Council business. This Committee should satisfy itself that the proposed decision falls within the Council's Travel and Accommodation Policy.

Head of Resources' Financial Comments

13. The financial implications are as stated in paragraph 7 of the report.

Background Papers Available for Public Inspection

14. None.

Electoral Division(s) Affected.

Sutton-in-Ashfield North.

Malvin Trigg Assistant Director of Environment (Transportation)

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