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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

21<sup>st</sup> September, 2005

**Report of**  
Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership & Governance)

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Coventry Solihull & Warwickshire Sub Regional Forum

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### 1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Forum over the last year and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

### 2 Recommendations

2.1 You are recommended to:

- (a) Note the work of the Forum and its benefits; and,
- (b) Continue the City Council's membership.

### 3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The CSW Forum is composed of elected representatives for Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire County and District Councils. Members of both the Westminster and European parliaments are eligible to attend *ex officio*. The work of the forum is to exchange and share information on common issues facing the sub region and to identify and develop common sub regional approaches. The Forum works through consensus and aims to strengthen the mutual common interests of the various public bodies of the sub region.

3.2 During the last year, the Forum has discussed a number of key issues that could affect the well being of Coventry and the sub region. Topics include:

- Regional Planning Guidance
- The Investment programme for the Technology Corridor
- The Sub regional Transportation and Regeneration Study
- Tourism Development
- The Ansty Major Investment Site
- The Regional Housing Strategy
- The Growth of the West Midlands Region and the Birmingham City area
- The Coventry & Nuneaton and E Birmingham & Solihull regeneration Zones
- The Regional Spatial Strategy
- Major Developments planned

In addition, members are able to ask questions, raise possible concerns and offer solutions to these and other issues that have a sub regional significance.

#### **4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment**

- 4.1 The City Council benefits directly from being a member of the CSW Forum. The representatives are able to share and discuss common issues with colleagues in partner Councils. There is no other body which has such a wide remit. With relevant officers from local authorities, CSW Partnership and other organisations in attendance the City representatives are able to ask questions.
- 4.2 By working together, the CSW Forum enables a more powerful voice to be given to common issues of concern. Member authorities are able to, and have strengthened, their responses to government and regional initiatives by referring to the agreed sub regional position. Similarly the Forum can provide a united sub regional position in any lobbying campaign.

#### **5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment**

- 5.1 The City Council's representatives are, at present, Councillors: Ken Taylor, David Arrowsmith, Ken Charley and John McNicholas.
- 5.2 During the last year, there were four meetings of the Forum. Councillors Arrowsmith and McNicholas attended all of them, Ken Taylor missed one and Councillor Charley two. There is no remuneration for belonging to or attending the Forum meetings.

#### List of background papers

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