
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

21st September, 2005

Report of
Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member Policy, Leadership & Governance)

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Local Government Association Council

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 At their meeting on 10th May, 2005, the Cabinet approved a process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council. This reports sets out details of the work of the West Midlands Local Government Association over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the City Council continues to send representatives to this outside body.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The West Midlands LGA is a voluntary association of the 38 local authorities in the West Midlands region. It represents the broad range of local government interests at a regional level, promoting and supporting authorities as well as influencing regional policies which affect the 'economic, social and environmental well being' of their communities. The City Council pays a membership fee to belong to the WMLGA.

3.2 The WMLGA's current functions include:

- ensuring the local government perspective is reflected in regional land use, transport, housing and economic development strategies and in environment and sustainability policies and strategies
- developing a regional voice in Europe - as a principal partner in the West Midlands in Europe Brussels office and the development of a Regional European Partnership.
- promoting local authorities' interests in accessing European funding streams and networking opportunities.
- supporting the work of Culture West Midlands.
- Managing the West Midlands Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support (WMCARS).

- Leading a regional E-Governance strategy – ‘The SMART Region’ and the Regional Knowledge Engine (KEN) – internet based information management and networking facility
- supporting the development and work of the Regional Centre of Excellence
- training and development for elected members and officers
- provision of the Regional Partnership Centre in Birmingham (accommodation and corporate services), home to West Midlands LGA and also the West Midlands Regional Assembly Secretariat, WMCARS, Culture West Midlands, WM Business Council and Sustainability West Midlands.

3.3 The West Midlands Local Government Association is closely associated with the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) and they share a Secretariat. Following the rejection of directly elected regional assemblies in the North East, the WMLGA and the WMRA have moved closer together with changes in the local government membership of the WMRA so that it is the same as the WMLGA Council.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The appointments provide Coventry City Council with a voice and the ability to influence regional issues through working with the other local authorities in the West Midlands and to provide a regional voice at a national level.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Councillors Taylor and Mutton are the City Council's representatives on the West Midlands Local Government Association Council. The number of City Council representatives has reduced in this Municipal Year as a result of changes to the composition of the Council, as a result, attendance records for previous years are not included here, no meetings have yet been held this Municipal Year (the first meeting is scheduled for October, 2005).

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
WMLGA Annual Report	CH 38
List of Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61