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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

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

**Report of**  
Councillor Ken Taylor

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Local Government Association  
Regional Assembly

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### **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Regional Assembly over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Coventry City Council continues to make appointments to the Regional Assembly.

### **3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 Currently the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) is responsible for developing and co-ordinating a strategic vision for improving the quality of life in the region. The Assembly is responsible for setting priorities and delivering regional strategies. The areas where the Assembly has specific responsibilities range from business and economic development through to social inclusion, and regional planning through to the environment.
- 3.2 The WMRA is also the Regional Planning Body, working closely with the region's local authorities to formulate and deliver a planning strategy that works effectively across the region and it is responsible for the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 3.3 The Assembly also manages the strategic review of Advantage West Midlands, the regional development agency, co-ordinating the views of the region to inform the policies and work of Advantage West Midlands.
- 3.4 In addition the WMRA is a key consultee for national government on regional and national policy issues – a recent example this year was the development of the Midlands Way concept.

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

4.1 As the WMRA has statutory responsibility for a range of regional strategies, particularly regional planning and the review of Advantage West Midlands, it is of significant importance to Coventry that the City Council is represented on the Regional Assembly to contribute to the development of regional policy and strategies and to influence national policy development.

#### 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 and so are automatically appointed to the Regional Assembly. 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**

List of Appointments to Outside Bodies

**Location**

CH61