
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

2nd November, 2005

Report of
Councillor Ken Taylor

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies: Local Government Association -General Assembly

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 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 should continue to send representatives to the Local Government Association General Assembly.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) promotes the interests of English and Welsh local authorities and is a voluntary lobbying organisation.

3.2 The LGA exists to promote better local government and to work with and for member authorities to realise a shared vision of local government that enables local people to shape a distinctive and better future for their locality and its communities. The LGA's aims to put local councils at the heart of the drive to improve public services and to work with government to ensure that the policy, legislative and financial context in which they operate, supports that objective.

3.3 The members of the LGA include county councils, metropolitan district councils, English unitary authorities, London boroughs, shire district councils and Welsh unitary authorities. The LGA also represents fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities.

3.4 The LGA's strategic objectives for 2001-2006 are:

- to achieve an equal partnership between central and local government;
- to secure the powers needed for local government to achieve the vision;
- to win greater freedom and flexibility in the exercise of these powers;
- to secure financial arrangements that enable local government effectively to exercise its powers and duties;

- to raise awareness of the role and achievements of local government; and
- to secure access for local authorities to the information, advice, services and support they need.

3.5 The remit of the Local Government Association covers all the activities of Local Government. Key strategic issues that have been addressed over the last year include the Government's new ten-year vision for local government and the review of funding for local government.

3.6 Described as the "parliament" for local Government, the LGA General Assembly meetings are held twice a year. Activities at the meetings include the approval of accounts and appointments for the LGA and the review of progress.

3.5 The City Council pays an annual subscription fee to belong to the Local Government Association.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The appointments to the LGA General Assembly provide Coventry City Council with a voice and the ability to understand and influence national policy issues through working with the other local authorities at a national level. The LGA is the principal lobbying organisation for the local government sector.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Council's representatives on the LGA General Assembly are Councillors Taylor, O'Neill, Mutton and Duggins. There have been two meetings of the General Assembly over the past twelve months, Councillor Taylor has attended both meetings, Councillor O'Neill and Mutton have each attended one meeting. In addition, Councillor Byhat and Kelly attended one meeting as substitute for Councillors Mutton and Duggins, Councillor H Noonan attended one meeting as an observer.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers	
Proper officer:	
Author:	Telephone
Councillor Ken Taylor (Any enquiries should be directed to the above)	024 7683 1000
Other contributors:	
Jenni Venn, Policy and Performance Manager, Chief Executive's Directorate	024 7683 3741
Alison Townsend, Scrutiny Team	024 7683 3080
Papers open to Public Inspection	
Description of paper	Location
LGA 2005 Annual Report	CH 38
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61