
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

23rd November, 2005

Report of
Cabinet Member
Adult Education & Libraries, Sports & Leisure

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Museum of British Road Transport (MBRT)

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 Museum of British Road Transport (MBRT) over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members note the report and the work undertaken by MBRT.
- 2.2 That Scrutiny Co-ordination committee recommends that Council continues to appoint members to the Board of MBRT on an annual basis.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Some fifty years ago Coventry's unique industrial motoring heritage inspired the City Fathers to start collecting key objects that portrayed the dynamic role of these Coventry industries. Since then the Museum's collection has grown to become recognised internationally as one of the truly great road transport collections in the world.
- 3.2 In 2004 MBRT's 'landmark' entrance and frontage was opened and, at long last, the Museum was given a public profile and image that did justice to the City's unique road transport history. Since then, the Museum has progressed out of all recognition and it is now in the top 1% of museums nationwide and, by a significant margin, Coventry's most visited tourist destination.
- 3.3 It also benefits from the enormous sense of pride it brings to local people because it is they, and there forebears, who throughout their working lives, have created the objects which are now held in such high regard throughout the world – the Museum is an incredible testament to their skills, ingenuity & inventive talents.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The Museum continues to go from strength to strength underpinning the work of the City Council in regenerating the heart of Coventry. The Museum was recently shortlisted for the Gulbenkian Prize for Museum of the Year.
- 4.2 The Museum has faced significant issues around asbestos however it continues to make progress and now attracts more tourists than Coventry Cathedral
- 4.3 It is essential that the City Council maintains its membership of this board in order to influence and take part in discussions over the future direction of the Museum.
- 4.4 Membership of the board also demonstrates our commitment to partnership working and to the future of the MBRT and its independent trust status.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 There have been four meetings of the Trust over the last twelve months. Councillor Ridley and Skipper are the current City Council representatives, at the City Council's Annual Meeting in May, 2005 Councillor Ridley replaced the Councillor Ahmed as the representative from the controlling Group. Of the four meetings Councillor Skipper has attended three, Councillor Ahmed attended one and Councillor Ridley has attended one (Councillors Ahmed and Ridley each being eligible to attend two meetings).
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

Author:	Telephone
Councillor Gary Ridley	024 7683 1004
Cabinet Member	
Adult Education & Libraries, Sports & Leisure	
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)	

Other contributors:	
Alison Townsend	024 7683 3080

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61