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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2006

**Report of**  
Cllr Andy Matchet, Cabinet Member (Health and Housing)

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies - West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority

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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 West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

### **2 Recommendations**

2.1 Appointments should continue to be made to the organisation and the work of the organisation subject to scrutiny as required by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.

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

3.1 The work of the WMFRA has been the subject of Council motions and questioning by scrutiny over the past year.

3.2 West Midlands Fire Service has been highly praised by the national Audit Commission in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) report on the service and received an overall performance score of **Good**.

3.3 The report looks at key areas of how the authority is being run and highlighted the following:

- West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority has embraced the challenge of the modernisation agenda and innovation in developing its organisational structure and service delivery.
- Through strong and effective leadership the fire authority has the capacity to address the challenges it has set for the forthcoming year and continue to take the service forward.
- The fire authority has well established and transparent corporate governance arrangements which exceed good practice.
- Partnership working is embraced throughout the Authority and there are excellent examples of where this approach has been beneficial for residents in the West Midlands.

- The fire authority has a longstanding commitment to community fire safety and preventative activities. Through strategic commitment to delivering preventative activities, the fire authority is in a strong position to successfully deliver its vision.
- The fire authority is delivering a broad range of authority-wide initiatives aimed at the wider social agenda and clearly focussed upon high risk groups with the communities.
- The fire authority is achieving positive outcomes for local people within a background of high levels of social deprivation, particularly in urban centres.
- The fire authority continues to demonstrate its commitment in preventing fire and other incidents through a range of community safety initiatives, and these are making a real difference to people living within its communities.
- The fire authority continues to develop the scope of the educational messages it is able to deliver and is increasing the range of work it is undertaking with young people, many of whom are on the fringes of crime.

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

4.1 Provides representation on the Fire and Civil Defence Authority.

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

5.1 Councillor Foster, Matchet and Mulhall are the City Council's representatives on the West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority. Over the twelve months to end January, 2006 Councillor Foster attended 13 meetings from a possible 17, Councillor Matchet 10 meetings from a possible 16 and Councillor Mulhall 10 from a possible 15 meetings; the number of meetings each member could attend differs from member to member as each sits on a different combination of sub committees of the Authority.

5.2 All City Council representatives on the West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority receive a basic allowance of £3,000. Councillor Mulhall receives an additional Special Responsibility Allowance of £1,500 as he is the Deputy Lead Member for Performance Management.

#### List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

<b>Description of paper</b>	<b>Location</b>
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61

## APPENDIX A

### WEST MIDLANDS PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To co-ordinate and, where appropriate, present the mutual views of the District Councils on the strategic planning and transportation issues affecting the West Midlands in the preparation, monitoring, implementation and review of spatial strategies and related Sub Regional strategies for the Metropolitan Area and the Region as a whole.
2. In collaboration with the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority and Centro, to promote the integration of the transport system in the West Midlands and the integration of strategic land use and transport planning.
3. To present, in conjunction with the Passenger Transport Authority where appropriate, the views of the West Midlands on planning, transportation, public transport and highways issues of a strategic nature to Government Departments, local, regional and national agencies (including the Local Government Association and West Midlands Local Government Association, Regional Development Agency and West Midlands Regional Assembly), and local authorities.
4. To advise and make recommendations to the West Midlands Joint Committee on the preparation of the Local Transport Plan for the West Midlands and Annual Monitoring Reports.
5. To monitor spending within the Local Transport Plan and approve the reallocation of resources as appropriate.
6. To act as a forum to seek to resolve any conflicts of interest which might arise among the Districts on matters within these terms of reference.
7. To ensure that in representing the views of the West Midlands to any outside body, it shall have consulted first, where appropriate, with the West Midlands Joint Committee and West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority.
8. To consider any matter within these terms of reference referred to it by the West Midlands Joint Committee, by any constituent District Council, the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority or any agency including Government Departments.
9. To engage consultants, subject to funds being available, to assist the Sub-Committee with research into major strategic issues when the need arises.
10. To receive on behalf of the constituent Districts and the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority progress/monitoring reports in respect of the contract for the West Midlands Joint Data Team and, in consultation with the



West Midlands Joint Committee, to be responsible for the tendering, award and monitoring of future contracts.

11. To receive from the Chief Engineers' and Planning Officers' Group (CEPOG) reports and technical advice on strategic land use planning and transportation matters and any other matter within the core business of CEPOG for which the Sub-Committee is responsible. The Chairman of CEPOG or his nominee to be present at meetings of the Sub-Committee.
12. To promote best practice in all matters within these terms of reference.