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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

8<sup>th</sup> March 2006

**Report of**  
Councillor David Arrowsmith (Cabinet Member Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning)

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work of the West Midlands Joint Committee - Planning & Transportation Sub Committee

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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 Planning and Transportation Sub Committee over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Councils representatives.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Myself and Councillor John McNicholas as Coventry's nominated Members recommend that the City Council should continue to be represented on the Sub Committee due to its vital role in the coordination and development of strategic planning and transportation policies programmes across the Metropolitan Area.

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

- 3.1 The Sub Committee is one of the Sub Committees of the West Midlands Joint Committee and has responsibilities to coordinate and, where appropriate, to present the mutual views of the Metropolitan District Councils on the strategic planning and transportation issues affecting the West Midlands. Its full terms of reference are included as Appendix A.
- 3.2 During the last year the Sub Committee has considered a wide range of very important Regional and Metropolitan matters including the Transport Innovation Fund, Regional Funding Prioritisation, the City Region, Airports and Safety Cameras, together with Development Plans of surrounding authorities and various Government consultations with a strategic planning and transportation content.
- 3.3 By far the biggest element of the Sub Committee's work is in relation to the West Midlands Local Transport Plan in terms of guiding its production and monitoring its implementation. During the last year this has been a huge task with the need to produce a Provisional Plan for submission by July 2005 and overseeing the production of the final plan due for submission to the Government at the end of March this year.
- 3.4 This has involved the Sub Committee in considering the overall strategy determining the various programmes required to deliver the strategy and making recommendations to the

Joint Committee as to the level of bid required for capital funding to deliver the programmes and priorities.

- 3.5 With the ever-growing importance of effective monitoring of LTP spending the Sub Committee has this year appointed a Monitoring Sub Group in order to review expenditure and hold authorities to account for the timely implementation of approved schemes and projects. Councillor John McNicholas has been appointed a member of the Monitoring Group.

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

- 4.1 The Planning and Transportation Sub Committee is one of the key Sub Committees' of the West Midlands Joint Committee and takes important Metropolitan wide decisions on planning and transportation matters which directly affect Coventry.
- 4.2 The benefits to Coventry are an ability to influence Metropolitan policy and strategy and to secure capital funding to undertake many of the highway, traffic and public transport schemes, which are essential for the delivery of the City's transport and regeneration agendas. For example this years LTP has secured capital funding for the City of £20.4M for various transport and highways initiatives.
- 4.3 The Sub Committee plays an important role in coordinating Metropolitan input to regional matters and will undoubtedly be heavily involved in developing the planning and transportation elements of the City Region Development Plan.

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

- 5.1 Councillors Arrowsmith and McNicholas are the City Council's representatives on the West Midlands Joint Committee Planning and Transportation Sub Committee. Over the twelve months to end January, 2006 there were 7 meetings of the Committee of which Councillor Arrowsmith attended 5 and Councillor McNicholas 6.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment.

#### List of background papers

Proper officer:

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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.