
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

22nd March, 2006

Report of
Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) - Cllr Ken Taylor

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – The Coventry Partnership

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 Coventry Partnership over the preceding twelve months and includes details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the City Council continues to appoint to the Coventry Partnership.

3 Background

3.1 The aim of the Coventry Partnership is to bring together at a local level, stakeholders from public, private, voluntary and community sectors to work together more effectively and to deliver a Community Plan (2003-2010) that will:

- Improve quality of life & services across Coventry – economic, social & environmental
- Narrow the “quality of life” gap between priority neighbourhoods & communities and the rest of the City.

3.2 The Council is represented on the Partnership by six Councillors: three Conservative and three Labour (Councillors Taylor, O'Neill, Arrowsmith, Mutton, Lakha and McNicholas). One of the Council's corporate objectives is to work in partnership to deliver the Community Plan produced by the Partnership.

3.3 The Partnership Board has members from all sectors in the City, including the community and voluntary sectors. The Partnership has, for the second year running been given a "green" designation by the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister, which is defined as "good progress – requires refinement and systematic implementation". This designation is important in that it demonstrates to CPA inspectors and others that the City Council and its partners have a shared vision expressed in Community Plan, strong accountability and decision-making processes and robust performance management and delivery systems to manage the performance of their joint work.

- 3.4 The Partnership conducts its business through an Operations Group and a number of delivery The Partnership Board receives reports back from each of the theme groups and its progress against its targets is monitored by the "Progress, Impact and Evaluation" group which is chaired by Professor Robert Dyson from Warwick University and has a membership drawn from a range of organisations including the City Council.
- 3.5 Leadership of the Partnership by the Council is provided through the chairing of the Partnership (on a rotating basis with the private and voluntary sector - the Leader is currently the chair until 31st March 2006) and through the Chief Executive's role as Secretary of the Partnership.

4 Information on Work of Outside Body

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

- 4.1 There are currently 75 activities many funded through Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, being delivered specifically to achieve the Community Plan outcomes and to focus upon the city's priority neighbourhoods and communities of Interest i.e. those people who are least well served by public sector organisations and consequently suffer high levels of deprivation. These include the Stoke Aldermoor First Stop Shop which was opened before Xmas and the successful Godiva Half Marathon which took place in September. This round of funding ends in March 2006.
- 4.2 All Coventry Partnership activities are in line with objectives which the Council as well as a range of other agencies, and members of the community, voluntary and business sector is seeking to achieve.
- 4.3 A number of these activities are highly innovative. For example, the Family Focus initiative is developing ways in which agencies can work together to develop more integrated packages of help for those families which make most use of public services. The Partners as Employers initiative is designing ways in which public services in the city can recruit more people from hard to reach communities. The Council's transport officers are using the Coventry Partnership to develop an accessibility plan which will identify those communities which find it hardest to travel to particular services and produce actions to either improve transport links or bring services closer to those communities. The Partnership has also hosted a "Premises Summit" designed to explore the potential for the shared use of premises in the city and a "Learning & Training Summit" which aimed to identify common priorities amongst partners in the field of learning & training.
- 4.4 Work is currently underway to allocate the next round of NRF funding which amounts to £10.6 million over the period 2006-8. This funding is being allocated using a commissioning approach based upon 6 key issues developed through the Progress Impact and Evaluation group (PIE) of the Partnership and a seminar involving over 20 partner organisations before Xmas. Recommendations on the use of the new NRF allocation are currently being made via the Partnership's sub-groups and involving members from all sectors. A final decision on allocations will be taken by the NRF sub-group which will decide whether the City Council will act as the Accountable Body for the recommended activities. The NRF sub-group is a sub-group of Cabinet and is chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council

Conferences, Seminars and Learning Programmes

- 4.5 The Partnership's Annual Conference was held in November 2005 at the Ricoh Arena and was generally well received as was an innovative learning programme which was delivered in the South East of the city designed to improve communication and involvement of residents by front-line staff in the design and delivery of services.

- 4.6 A senior managers' seminar was also held in 2005 designed to help managers develop more effective partnership work in the city and the national Common Purpose organisation delivered a leadership programme for those likely to become senior managers in the future.
- 4.7 Overall, 250 people took part in learning programmes last year.

Performance Management

- 4.8 Coventry City Council and the Coventry Partnership are now seen as at the leading edge of developments in the way in which the performance of partnership activities is managed.
- 4.9 A third Household Survey has been conducted to assess whether, from the perspective of residents, their quality of life is improving and whether the "quality of life" gap is narrowing between different parts of the city. This information is being collated alongside a range of national measures in order to provide a way of assessing the performance of partner agencies in delivering the Community Plan.

The Community Plan and the Local Area Agreement

- 4.10 Coventry has been one of 20 national pilots for a Local Area Agreement (LAA), focusing on:
- Children and Young People
 - Safer and Stronger Communities
 - Health and Older People
 - Enterprise & Economic Development
- 4.11 Officers and partners are now working on carrying forward the strategies outlined in the LAA which has been incorporated within a revised Community Plan.
- 4.12 The draft revised Community Plan also reflects a more integrated approach with other groups and initiatives within the city such as the Cultural Partnership, the Older Peoples' Partnership and Neighbourhood Management.
- 4.13 Progress on the delivery of the Community Plan and the LAA will be tracked at city level, neighbourhood level and in terms of the impact of our work on BME communities where the data is available. This approach is seen as highly innovative nationally and provides a solid foundation for the Council and its partners to track their joint work.

5 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 5.1 The above appointments will enable the City Council to continue to fulfil its community leadership role as required under the Local Government Act 2000. It will also ensure that a strong link is maintained between partner organisations and the City Council at a strategic level.

6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

6.1 The attendance record of Elected Member representatives on the Board of the Coventry Partnership for the last 12 months is as follows:

Name	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	March 2005	May 2005	July 2005	Sept 2005	Nov 2005	Jan 2005	Total
Cllr Ken Taylor	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	6
Cllr Tony O'Neill	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	6
Cllr David Arrowsmith	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	4
Cllr John Mutton	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	1
Cllr John McNicholas	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	3
Cllr Ram Lakha	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	4

6.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointments

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

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Coventry Partnership minutes	(G11, Gulson Road Site, c/o Coventry University, Priory Street, Coventry CV1 5FB
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61