
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

22nd March, 2006

Report of
Councillor Ahmed

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Regional Flood Defence Committee

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 Regional Flood Defence Committee over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the City Council continues this appointment which rotates between Coventry City Council and Solihull MBC on a 4 year basis, Coventry's term expires in May 2006. No appointment to this organisation is reframed until the Annual meeting of the City Council in may 2010 for the municipal year 2010/11.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Severn Trent Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) is a Statutory Executive Committee of the Environment Agency, which itself is a Non- Departmental Public Body (NDPB). The main purpose of the RFDC is to approve and support the Flood Risk Management Programme of the agency in the Midlands Region, which covers the catchments of the River Severn and River Trent.
- 3.2 RFDC is funded by DEFRA, who allocate grants in aid to the Environment Agency. The committee also raised local funding by a local levy, (Coventry City Council was levied 2005/06 £89,743 and 2006/07 £92,683 – an increase of 3.28%) on the County and Metropolitan Councils. This funding is used to reduce flood risk through local schemes.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 Over the past couple of years, RFDC have undertaken a full topographic survey upstream of the River Sherbourne culvert at a cost of £100k. Future proposals to replace the trash screen on the front end of the Sherbourne culvert at possible cost of £150k and also possibility of installing level gauges at various sites within the next 12 months as part of the £150k budget available for flood warning improvements. In addition to this, it is estimated that a figure of around £100k will be given to Coventry City Council for contracting back on critical ordinary watercourse. This sum may be by far in excess of the funding the Council

would have received from Central Government as it includes enhancement for pioneering works.

- 4.2 The current Development of Walsgrave Hospital involved significant flood risk issues over which the Environment agency and City Council secured a good outcome. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) have been used to minimise any extra run off from the site and similar good news story of co-operation at the new Ricoh Arena site.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 Councillor Ahmed is the City Council's representative on the Regional Flood Defence Committee. Over the past twelve months there have been 3 meetings of the Committee of which Councillor Ahmed has attended 2.

- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

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