
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

19th April, 2006

Report of
Councillor Gazey

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadet Association

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 West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadet Association over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the City Council should continue to appoint to the West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadet Association.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The Association exists to support the armed forces in the West Midlands. Appointed members include Local Authorities, leading companies, CBI, TUC and relevant military personnel serving and retired. It meets twice a year at various locations and is a crucial and important contact for Local Authorities.
- 3.2 Territorial Forces originated in 1811. Since then some 80 Acts of Parliament have successively reformed its prime role of controlling part time forces. The present scheme started in 1968 with the WM County by amalgamation if the TA and VR Associations. Its Constitution is reviewed three-yearly.
- 3.3 The West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadet Association supports Naval and Air Force Associations also in order to create the most favourable climate for the units themselves to conduct their recruiting and employer support activities and oversee morale and welfare of armed forces in peace. The Association identifies problems arising and represents them to its main funder, the Ministry of Defence and others.
- 3.4 It aims to liaise with employers to seek support in recruiting and welfare of its members who are employees. This is critical currently and most employers have a declared policy in this respect. It also runs a 'Look at Life' insurance scheme enabling recruits to accompany units on training before enlistment.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The organisation is the voice of the reservists and offers career advice and experience opportunity for potential recruits. It is an opportunity for the City Council to liaise with the Ministry of Defence and to discuss matters affecting the City with the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association commanders.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 The Association meets twice a year, in the last twelve months, both of which Councillor Gazey attended.
- 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