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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

20 September 2006

**Report of**  
Councillor Ken Taylor, Leader of the Council

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Local Government - Regional Assembly

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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 the West Midlands Regional Assembly over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Coventry City Council continues to make appointments to the Regional Assembly.

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

- 3.1 Currently the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) is responsible for developing and co-ordinating a strategic vision for improving the quality of life in the region. The Assembly is responsible for setting priorities and delivering regional strategies. The areas where the Assembly has specific responsibilities range from business and economic development through to social inclusion, and regional planning through to the environment.
- 3.2 The WMRA is also the Regional Planning Body, working closely with the region's local authorities to formulate and deliver a planning strategy that works effectively across the region and it is responsible for the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 3.3 The Assembly also manages the strategic review of Advantage West Midlands, the regional development agency, co-ordinating the views of the region to inform the policies and work of Advantage West Midlands.
- 3.4 In addition the WMRA is a key consultee for national government on regional and national policy issues.

3.5 Key activities in 2006/07 will include the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Regional Economic Strategy continuing the debate about the role of city regions within regional structures and policy frameworks.

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

4.1 As the WMRA has statutory responsibility for a range of regional strategies, particularly regional planning and the review of Advantage West Midlands, it is of significant importance to Coventry that the City Council is represented on the Regional Assembly to contribute to the development of regional policy and strategies and to influence national policy development.

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

5.1 The City Council's representatives are Councillors Taylor and Mutton and Councillors O'Neill and Duggins are the alternate representatives. In the last twelve months Councillor Taylor has attended two out of four meetings and Councillor Mutton has attended one of the four meetings.

5.2 Members receive no remuneration for the appointments.

#### List of background papers

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**Location** CH 61

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies