
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

25th October, 2006

Report of
Councillor Ridley - Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure & Libraries)

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Museum of British Road Transport Trust
(Coventry) Limited (MBRT)

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

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members note the report and the work undertaken by MBRT.
- 2.2 That Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that Council continue to appoint members to the Board of MBRT on an annual basis.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Some fifty years ago Coventry's unique industrial motoring heritage inspired the City Fathers to start collecting key objects that portrayed the dynamic role of these Coventry industries. Since then the Museum's collection has grown to become recognised internationally as one of the truly great road transport collections in the world.
- 3.2 In 2004 MBRT's 'landmark' entrance and frontage was opened and, at long last, the Museum was given a public profile and image that did justice to the City's unique road transport history. Since then, the Museum has progressed out of all recognition and it is now in the top 1% of museums nationwide and, by a significant margin, Coventry's most visited tourist destination.
- 3.3 It also benefits from the enormous sense of pride it brings to local people because it is they, and their forebears, who throughout their working lives, have created the objects which are now held in such high regard throughout the world – the Museum is an incredible testament to their skills, ingenuity & inventive talents.
- 3.4 Since the 2004 refurbishment the board have faced many challenges including dealing with an asbestos problem as well as providing a sustainable future through business planning and now the need to recruit a new Chief Executive and Deputy.

3.5 MBRT Continues to be the City's premier visitor attraction and the recent "festival of motoring" was even more successful than the year before.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 It is essential that the City Council maintain its membership of this board in order to influence and take part in discussions over the future direction of the Museum. Membership of the board also demonstrates our commitment to partnership working and to the future of the MBRT and its independent trust

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Since the Annual Meeting of the City Council on 17 May 2005, there have been 5 meetings of the Board of Directors of the Museum of British Road Transport Limited. Councillors Ridley and Skipper have each attended four of those meetings.

5.2 Members receive no remuneration for these appointments.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

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Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies