
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

25th October 2006]

Report of
Councillor Ken Taylor, Leader of the Council

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Soothern & Craner Educational Foundation

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 Soothern & Craner Educational Foundation over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council should continue to appoint representatives to the Foundation, however, consideration should be given to reducing the number of council representatives to two when the appointments to the Foundation are next made by Council in 2009.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The Soothern & Craner Educational Foundation is a Trust fund that is administered by a local Solicitors and is run by a Board of Trustees. It is a registered charity.
- 3.2 The objects of the Foundation are to apply the income received from its assets to assist any girl or young woman living in the City of Coventry in the furtherance of her education or vocational training particularly those of families belonging to the Society of Friends (Quakers).

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 Whilst membership of the Foundation does allow the Council influence over how the funds are used there are no direct benefits to the City Council from the appointment.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Council representatives are Councillors Blundell, Harrison and Taylor. In the last twelve months there has been one meeting. Councillor Taylor was in attendance at the meeting. Councillors Blundell and Harrison did not attend.

5.2 Members receive no remuneration for the appointments.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

Chris Hinde, Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Author:

Councillor Ken Taylor

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Telephone

024 76 83 1000

Other contributors:

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

Location

CH 61

APPENDIX

Soothern & Craner Educational Foundation

Trustees

The scheme is governed by a Trust Deed of 3 February, 1914 varied by Scheme dated 18 December 1930, in relation to Trustees the deed states:-

"The body of Trustees of the Foundation shall, when complete, consist of seven persons, to be appointed each for a term of three years –

Three by the Coventry City Council

Four by the Warwickshire North Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers.

A Trustee need not be a member of the appointing body."

Current City Council nominated Trustees are Councillors Blundell, Harrison and Taylor, the appointment of all City Council Trustees expires in May 2009.

The Clerk to the Trustees has been contacted and has confirmed that the Trust Deed requires three City Council nominated Trustees and that these do not have to be elected members. The trustees only meet once a year and it was acknowledged that the timing of this in July (due to financial year end/submission of accounts) does cause problems as it falls within a traditional holiday period, the Clerk felt that a reduction in the number of City Council nominees might cause problems with quorum.

The report back on the work of Soothern and Craner recommends that the number of City Council nominees to the organisation be reduced from three to two, whilst this is not likely to cause the Charity to breach of its Trust Deed the Clerk was concerned that reducing the number of Trustees would increase the possibility of a meeting being inquorate. As an alternative the City Council may wish to consider the appointment of interested non-elected members as Trustees.

The Clerk indicated that he felt the City Council Trustees provided a welcome contribution to the meeting.

Income/Expenditure

The Charity's income and expenditure since 1998, obtained from the Charity Commission website, is as follows:-

Financial Year	Gross Income	Gross Expenditure
1998/99	£9,583	£6,893
1999/00	£10,090	£8,644
2000/01	£10,020	£9,475
2001/02	£10,183	£6,106
2002/03	£10,355	£6,912
2003/04	£10,556	£10,336
2004/05	£10,871	£8,378