
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

25th October 2006

Report of
Councillor David Arrowsmith - Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning)

Title
Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - West Midlands Joint Committee - Planning & Transportation Sub 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 West Midlands Planning and Transportation Sub Committee over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Councils representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Myself and Councillor John McNicholas as Coventry's nominated Members recommend that the City Council should continue to be represented on the Sub Committee due to its vital role in the coordination and development of strategic planning and transportation policies programmes across the Metropolitan Area.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The Sub Committee is one of the Sub Committees of the West Midlands Joint Committee and has responsibilities to coordinate and, where appropriate, to present the mutual views of the Metropolitan District Councils on the strategic planning and transportation issues affecting the West Midlands.
- 3.2 During the last year the Sub Committee has considered a wide range of important Regional and Metropolitan matters including the Demand Management Study being progressed under the Transport Innovation Fund, Regional Funding Prioritisation, the City Region, Airports and Safety Cameras, together with Development Plans of surrounding authorities and various Government consultations with a strategic planning and transportation content.
- 3.3 A major element of the Sub Committee's work is in relation to the West Midlands Local Transport Plan in terms of guiding its production and monitoring its implementation. During the last year this has been a huge task with the need to produce the final plan due for submission to the Government at the end of March this year. This has involved the Sub Committee in considering the overall strategy determining the various programmes required to deliver the strategy and making recommendations to the Joint Committee as to the level of bid required for capital funding to deliver the programmes and priorities. Prioritising transport schemes via the new Regional Transportation Allocation has been a significant element of the Sub Committee's work.

3.4 With the ever-growing importance of effective monitoring of LTP spending the Sub Committee has established a Monitoring Sub Group in order to review expenditure and hold authorities to account for the timely implementation of approved schemes and projects. Councillor John McNicholas is a member of the Monitoring Group.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The Planning and Transportation Sub Committee is one of the key Sub Committees' of the West Midlands Joint Committee and takes important Metropolitan wide decisions on planning and transportation matters which directly affect Coventry.

4.2 The benefits to Coventry is that it presents a formal mechanism to influence Metropolitan policy and strategy and to secure capital funding to undertake many of the highway, traffic and public transport schemes, which are essential for the delivery of the City's transport, regeneration and growth agendas. For example this years LTP has secured a massive capital funding for the City of £20.4M for various transport and highways initiatives.

4.3 The Sub Committee plays an important role in coordinating Metropolitan input to regional matters and is heavily involved in developing the Birmingham, Coventry & Black Country City Region.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Council's representatives are Councillors Arrowsmith and McNicholas. Between September 2005 and July 2006 inclusive there have been 8 meetings, of which Councillor Arrowsmith has attended 6 and Councillor McNicholas has attended 7.

5.2 Members receive no remuneration for the appointment.

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