
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 Regional Assembly – Regional Planning Partnership (RPP)

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 As Coventry's nominated Lead Member I recommend that the City Council should continue to be represented on the Regional Planning Partnership due to its vital role as the Regional Planning Body in the coordination and development of strategic planning for the West Midlands Region.

3 Information on work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The regional Planning Partnership is one of several partnerships established under the West Midlands Regional Assembly. It is organised in a similar manner to the Assembly itself with representatives of the West Midlands Local Authorities together with representatives of the Business Sector and the other stakeholders Group.
- 3.2 The City Councils representatives are Councillor John McNicholas and myself
- 3.3 The RPPs principal role is to act as the Regional Planning Body, and therefore now has statutory responsibilities for the production, monitoring and review of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)
- 3.4 In relation to the RSS the Partnership: -
- Sets out the planning strategy for the region which forms the top tier of all Local Development Documents
 - Has responsibility for the review and updating of the strategy
 - Sets out the parameters and briefs for Sub Regional work
 - Determines whether Local Development Documents and major applications are in conformity with the RSS.

3.5 Key priorities over the last 12 months have been: -

- Progressing Phase One of the Review of RSS which comprises the Black Country Study.
- Launching the Phase 2 of the RSS Review which is looking at housing, employment, waste and transportation. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with the Strategic Authorities (including Coventry) on the options for various levels of growth and the Partnership is now considering the options for consultation early 2007.
- Ensuring that the work on the Metropolitan City Region sits comfortably within the RSS, and seeking to deliver cross regional support for City Regions in the Metropolitan Area and Stoke on Trent.
- Ensuring that the Urban and Rural Renaissances elements of the RSS are fully compatible and integrated.
- Dealing with a significant increase in Conformity Issues, including undertaking a strategic review of protocols and resolving the process.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The Regional Planning Partnership now fulfils the role as the Regional Planning Body and therefore has a statutory role in preparing and reviewing the Regional Spatial Strategy. As this is now part of the statutory planning system and the RSS now forms the top level of our own statutory Development Plan, it is essential that the City Council plays an active part to ensure that the City's strategies and aspirations for sustainable growth both influence the regional agenda and are fully reflected in agreed regional and sub regional strategies and policies.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Council's representatives are Councillors Arrowsmith and McNicholas. In the period between September 2005 and August 2006 inclusive there were 6 meetings held. Both Councillor Arrowsmith and McNicholas attended 1 of these meetings.

5.2 Members receive no remuneration for the appointments.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

Author: Telephone 02476 831173
Councillor David Arrowsmith, Cabinet Member Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning,
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:
James Russell

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper **Location** CH61
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies