
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

14 February 2007]

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

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies - Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC)

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 regional flood defence committee (RFDC) over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That scrutiny notes the contents of the report and that the Council continues to appoint to this body.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The Severn-Trent Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) is a body through which the Environment Agency carry's out its work on flood defence and land drainage the region is known as either the Severn Trent region (official title) or the midland region. The boundaries are based around the drainage areas of the rivers and tributaries in the region and this takes the region across the welsh border in parts.

3.2 The committee is responsible for preparing an annual, programme of flood defence maintenance and improvement works, determining the necessary funding and obtaining department for environment food and rural affairs (DEFRA) approval, providing and operating flood-warning systems. Much of the work of the RFDC is around the monitoring of both capital works and revenue maintenance costs

3.3 The RFDC consists of a Chairman appointed by the Secretary of State for DEFRA and representatives appointed by Local Authorities, DEFRA and the Environment Agency with the committee meeting quarterly.

3.4 The City Council paid a local levy of £92.683 in 2006/07, which is forecast to rise to £109,688 in 2007/08, a rise of 18%. This compares to Birmingham's contribution of £304,446 in 2006/07, which is forecast to rise to £360,327 in 2007/08, a rise of 18%. A full list of contributions is available in appendix one The local levy enables projects across the region to take place and a capital project for the River Sherbourne, in Coventry, is included on the draft list of schemes for next year.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 Coventry City Council pays a "levy" to the environment agency each year and membership of this committee is essential to ensure that the authority gets value for money from that contribution. Furthermore with the onset of climate change and the dawn of potentially challenging weather conditions in the future flooding and flood defence will be given increasing importance as an agenda by many different agencies including Coventry City Council.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Council's representatives on the Regional Flood Defence Committee are Councillor Ridley, appointed from July 2006, and Councillor Townshend (substitute). Councillor Ahmed was a representative until June 2006 and attended both of the meetings held from January 2006 until May 2006. From July 2006 until December 2006 a further two meetings were held of which Councillor Ridley attended one. Councillor Townshend was eligible to attend one meeting as substitute but did not.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

Author:
Councillor Gary Ridley
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Telephone 024 7683 3122

Other contributors:

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

Location CH61

Appendix One

CONSTITUENT LOCAL AUTHORITIES LEVIES (£)

REGION : MIDLANDS	Actual 06/07	Forecast 07/08
<u>County Council / MDC</u>	(£)	(£)
Birmingham	304,466	360,327
Bristol	2,736	3,238
Coventry	92,683	109,688
Derby City	73,508	86,994
Derbyshire	174,540	206,563
Doncaster	19,279	22,816
Dudley	103,121	122,041
East Riding of Yorkshire	147	174
Gloucestershire	189,565	224,345
Herefordshire	72,749	86,096
Leicester City	80,461	95,223
Leicestershire	215,555	255,103
Lincolnshire	13,405	15,865
North Lincolnshire	35,266	41,736
Northamptonshire	4,366	5,167
Nottingham City	78,172	92,514
Nottinghamshire	264,727	313,296
Oxfordshire	600	710
Powys	0	0
Rotherham	17,187	20,340
Rutland	1,658	1,963
Sandwell	89,297	105,681
Sheffield	2	3
Shropshire	107,352	127,047
Solihull	82,358	97,469
South Gloucestershire	13,159	15,573
Staffordshire	280,113	331,506
Stoke on Trent	74,261	87,886
Telford & Wrekin	52,906	62,612
Walsall	81,106	95,987
Warwickshire	207,253	245,278
Wolverhampton	74,781	88,501
Worcester CC	218,221	258,259
Total	3,025,000	3,580,000