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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

14 February 2007

**Report of**  
Cllr Jack Harrison

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Leicester University Court

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### **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Leicester University Court over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the City Council continues this appointment with Leicester University Court.

### **3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 The Court is the Annual General meeting held once a year to approve the business achievements of the previous year. The Court is made up of academic members of staff of the University, independent representatives, the business community and local authorities in the region.
- 3.2 The University of Leicester has been invited to join the 1994 Group – a coalition of internationally recognised intensive universities. Leicester will join institutions including Warwick, Durham, York and Surrey amongst others. The 1994 Group of internationally renowned universities engaged in leading-edge research and high-quality teaching is committed to meeting the diverse needs of students, staff and policy makers. The 1994 Group provides a framework for collaboration between research-intensive universities in the UK. The aim of this collaboration is to enhance the ability of member universities to act collectively where appropriate whilst maintaining their individuality and thriving in the highly competitive higher education sector. The distinction of joining this prestigious group follows a number of recent significant achievements for the University of Leicester. Leicester was ranked joint first-among universities teaching full-time students – in the inaugural National Student Survey. Leicester's £300m investment in research and teaching excellence-among the biggest of any university in the U.K is seeing state-of-the-art facilities come on stream. The University of Leicester has broken into the top 20 of The Times newspaper Good University Guide league table where it is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the UK out of 110 Universities. Leicester climbed 6 places from last year's ranking to its highest ever position. A key reason behind the rise was the University's recent success in the National Student Survey. Director of Marketing Richard Taylor said: "The University of Leicester is

the UK's top ranked University for teaching quality and overall satisfaction amongst universities teaching full time students and was rated joint 1<sup>st</sup> in the UK in the 2005 National Student Survey". "Breaking into the top 20 is further evidence of Leicester's rising fortunes and of our investment in high quality teaching and research beginning to pay off". "The Times league table also reveals we are a leading university for student completion-over 95% who come to Leicester go on to gain an award". "Our ranking in The Times league table is an important result for Leicester which will have international ramifications. Students use league tables as a guide to UK Universities and, as such, it is important for Leicester to be confirmed among the leading institutions in the country". 18<sup>th</sup> overall Leicester was also ranked: 3<sup>rd</sup> for teaching satisfaction, 5<sup>th</sup> for student facilities and 6<sup>th</sup> for student completion.

- 3.3 The University believes in the synergy between teaching and research, are committed to producing high quality, significant research which informs their teaching. They believe that academic potential is the only legitimate means of differentiating between candidates when offering places and that a diverse student and staff body makes the University stronger.
- 3.4 They believe that choosing to study a higher education course requires courage, commitment and effort and aim to acknowledge this by providing a first rate teaching and learning experience for all students. They are an international university that is committed to the region, who believe they best serve our region by sharing with it the benefits of their internationally significant work and that they improve and grow stronger by listening and learning from those who use the services.

#### **4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment**

- 4.1 Providing direct link between the Leicester University and Coventry City Council and the increasing partnership working in relation to medical research with University Hospital Coventry.

#### **5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment**

- 5.1 Councillor Harrison is the City Council's representative on The Leicester University Court; the Court meets once a year, Councillor Harrison was unable to attend the last meeting.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

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