
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

14 February 2007

Report of
Councillor Ken Taylor, Leader of the Council

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Joint 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 the West Midlands Joint Committee over the last twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the City Council should continue to make appointments to the West Midlands Joint Committee.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The West Midlands Joint Committee was set up in 1985 following the dissolution of the West Midlands County Council by the seven metropolitan district councils of the West Midlands: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Formally constituted under the powers given under the Local Government Act 1972, and updated by the Local Government Act 2000, the West Midlands Joint Committee is responsible for a range of specific strategic functions that were formerly undertaken by the West Midlands County Council.
- 3.2 The West Midlands Joint Committee meets every three months with its annual General Meeting held in June. In 2006 the Joint Committee met in January, March, June, and September.
- 3.3 The Joint Committee comprises seven voting members, one from each metropolitan district council. Key functions of the Joint Committee include: making nominations and appointments to a number of regional bodies; exercising the Districts' powers and rights as shareholders of Birmingham International Airport and the co-ordination of actions on important issues and to communicate these to central Government and other influential bodies. Specific areas of activity include transport (including consideration of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan, and its implementation) and consultation and co-operation on matters affecting the seven districts with the West Midlands Joint Authorities including

the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, West Midlands Police Authority and the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority.

- 3.4 Coventry City Council's voting representative on the West Midlands Joint Committee is Councillor Ken Taylor, Leader of the Council. Councillor John Mutton and Councillor Tony O'Neill are observer members. Councillor O'Neill is also the council's substitute voting member.
- 3.5 During 2006 the Joint Committee's most important business has included the consideration and agreement of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan; the development of the West Midlands Metropolitan Area Congestion Management Study, the consultation on the expansion of Birmingham Airport; and the provision of joint authority budgets.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The West Midlands Joint Committee is a formally constituted body that enables the West Midlands Metropolitan Districts to consider jointly key strategic issues and the allocation of funding that directly impacts on the people of Coventry. Under current Local Government arrangements it is vital that Coventry City Council is a member of the West Midlands Joint Committee.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 The City Council's representatives on the West Midlands Joint Committee are Councillors Taylor, O'Neill and Mutton. The West Midlands Joint Committee held 4 meetings during the period of January 2006 and December 2006 inclusive of which Councillor Taylor attended 2 and his substitute Councillor Foster attended the other 2. Councillor Mutton attended 3 meetings and Councillor O'Neill did not attend any of the meetings.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

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