



Coventry City Council

5.3

Public report

Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

18th April, 2007

Report of

Councillor Cliffe Ridge

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Coventry and Solihull Valuation Tribunal

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 report sets out details of the work of the Coventry and Solihull Valuation Tribunal and recommends the City Council continues to appoint representatives to the Tribunal as and when necessary.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the City Council continues to appoint representatives to the Coventry and Solihull Valuation Tribunal when requested to do so by the Tribunal.

3 Information on the Work of Outside Bodies

- 3.1 The Coventry and Solihull Valuation Tribunal is one of 56 such Tribunals across the country, established to hear appeals in respect of the rateable value of non-domestic property and the "banding" of domestic property for Council Tax together with some related subjects. This particular Tribunal only deals with appeals arising in the Coventry and Solihull area and hearings are held in the area, although administration is based in Leamington Spa.
- 3.2 The Tribunal is limited to 28 Members, who normally sit in panels of 3 for each hearing. Members are expected to be available for a minimum of 10 hearings per year. Each member can be appointed to the Tribunal for a period of up to 6 years although they are eligible to be considered for another term of up to 6 years. There is an upper age limit of 72 for membership of the Tribunal. Membership is unpaid but reimbursement of travelling and subsistence expenses is made. The Tribunal undertakes full training for all new members in order that they can carry out their duties satisfactorily.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 Clearly the Tribunal carries out a valuable role in relation to the taxation regime. Whilst it was anticipated that the Tribunal's workload would increase over the next few years due to proposed changes in the "banding" structure, for domestic property, this now appears to be unlikely. There has, therefore, been a lower demand for Councillors to attend hearings during the year, but the workload of the Tribunal does fluctuate from year to year. By participating in the Tribunal, Councillors gain a better understanding of the non-domestic property rating scheme, as well as issues which individuals experience in relation to the "banding" of domestic property.
- 4.2 In the past, there has been some difficulty in appointing sufficient members to the Panel, but, at the present time, the Tribunal has sufficient members to undertake its workload. It is recommended that the City Council continues to appoint Members to the Tribunal and does so when invited to make appointments by the Tribunal.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for Appointment

- 5.1 Councillors Asif, Blundell, Mrs Johnson, Lee, Ridge and Ridley and Mrs Forte, Mr Mason, Mrs Mason, Mr Sutherland, Mr Johnson and Mr Bailey are the City Council's representatives on the Coventry and Solihull Valuation Tribunal. Attendance records have been requested from the Clerk of the Tribunal, but have not been forthcoming, to avoid any further delay this report is unfortunately submitted without this information on this occasion.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with this 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	CH59