
Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

18th April, 2007

Report of

Councillor Mrs Griffin

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau Management Board

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 A process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council is in place. This reports sets out details of the work of Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate one Member to the Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau Management Board.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau is a progressive Bureau, working towards meeting current and future advice needs in the City. Core funding for the Bureau has continued from the City Council through the new Grant Aid Agreement, this along with other funding streams including the Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust, the Legal Services Commission, the European Regional Development Fund, ICAS (Department of Health) and from April 2006 the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Financial Inclusion Fund, has meant that the Bureau has been able to provide a wide range of both specialist and generalist services to the communities of Coventry over the previous twelve months.
- 3.2 Funding in its various forms continues to be a high priority for the Bureau, led by the new Chair, the Board of Trustees have spent time on short term budget planning and the resulting HR challenges stemming from funding fall out and changes to contracting arrangements. They have also engaged on longer term business planning and a renewal of core objectives supported by National CAB. This work has dovetailed into the work across the City on the new Advice Strategy for Coventry which the Chief Executive has been involved in through her role in the Advice Services Coventry Consortium.
- 3.3 In addition the Chief Executive continues to represent the voluntary sector on the Coventry Partnership and on its Equalities and Communities Theme Group; this has enabled the voluntary sector's perspective to be put forward in partnership work with statutory and other partners.

3.4 The Hillfields Project which provided advice to the established community as well as those that had more recently arrived in the UK and Hillfields ended in December 200. The project was extremely successful, far exceeding its outputs with very little need for publicity; Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau successfully met a continuing and changing need in the community. Citizens Advice Bureau advice is to continue work in the area via NRF funding but operating fewer sessions in order to enable the expansion of outreach advice services to other priority neighbourhoods.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The Citizens Advice Bureau is one of a number of advice services funded by the City Council; membership of the Board of Trustees ensures that the Council is involved in determining the policy of the bureau as a grant funded organisation and ensures involvement in performance monitoring and management of resources.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Over the previous twelve months the Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau Management Board have met 7 times, Councillor Griffin attended 5 of these.

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	CH61