
Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

18th April, 2006

Report of

Councillor Arrowsmith

Title

Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Partnership

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10 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 Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Partnership over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the City Council continue its membership of the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Partnership for 2007/08.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the City Council confirms that Cllr Hazel Noonan and Cllr Dave Arrowsmith continue as the Council's representatives on the CSWP Board.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Appendix 1 contains information collated from the CSWP corporate plan over the last year.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 CSWP was developed by the City Council and our partners to give expressions to sub-regional work across local authority boundaries on important economic development and regeneration issues.
- The CSWP Ltd Vision is " Investment, Jobs and a better life for everyone in Coventry and Warwickshire. " Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Ltd (CSWP Ltd) unite all sectors of the area's economy. It works to ensure that they are all working together, and pulling in the same direction in support of our core objectives:

- Supporting economic development and regeneration and development across the Sub-region
- Providing a dynamic platform for policy decision-making
- Demonstrable project delivery
- Giving people a strong voice in their future prosperity

The Partnership includes private, public, education, and voluntary agencies, working together for the growth and prosperity of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, and the one million people who live here. It is a company limited by guarantee created in 1994.

- 4.2 Key activities that the partnership has worked on have included physical regeneration, tourism, transport and industrial diversification. It acts as an important linkage to Advantage West Midlands through the Regeneration Zone, High Technology Corridor and Clusters work. Through these delivery vehicles funding for key projects such as the Belgrade, Ricoh Arena and Electric Wharf has been secured. It provides a forum for local authorities, the universities, the private sector and other key partners to work strategically to represent and advance the position of the sub-region. A most recent example of this is the formulation of a sub regional response to the Regional Economic Strategy, which was presented to Cabinet on February 13th 2007.
- 4.3 CSWP continues to be an important element in the City Council's wider partnership work with neighbouring local communities. It will provide a useful platform through which to explore the options and policy implications resulting from the Lyons Review and the sub-national review of Economic Development. This is advocating the importance of sub regions in terms of economic development.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 Councillors Arrowsmith and H. Noonan are the City Council's representatives on Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Limited. Over the past twelve months there have been five meetings of the Board of which Councillor Arrowsmith has attended three. Councillor Noonan was appointed mid-year and has attended three meetings out of a possible three.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Sarah Abel, Regeneration Services

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
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Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside	CH59
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Bodies	
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Summary of the work of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership (CSWP) 2006-2007

CSWP is the partnership for economic development in the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire sub-region. It brings together all those public, private, voluntary and community organisations that have a stake in the economy and are able to contribute to its development. CSWP's vision is: **"Investment, jobs and a better life for everyone in Coventry and Warwickshire."**

They will achieve this by delivering the company's strategic objectives as they are set out in their Memorandum of Association. These include:

- To develop, implement and review an economic strategy which strengthens and diversifies the economy of Coventry and Warwickshire
- To undertake projects to encourage the further economic development of Coventry and Warwickshire and enhance the skills and capabilities of its inhabitants
- To promote and develop Coventry and Warwickshire as a centre of business excellence and tourism
- To act as the voice of the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region in economic affairs

In achieving these objectives, CSWP states that the strengths they have which provide real added value are:

- The confidence of partners in their impartiality; they are respected as an honest broker
- They are a small flexible organisation which can respond quickly to new situations and developments
- They have an innovative and "can do" culture
- They work hard to listen to their partners needs and concerns and deliver what's needed in the way it's needed

Major areas of partnership working include:

- **The Coventry & Nuneaton Regeneration Zone**
Leading on the spread of prosperity from the south of the sub-region to all areas of Coventry and Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- **The Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire High Technology Corridor**
Promoting economic modernisation and diversification and the development of a knowledge based economy.
- **CW2000**
A strategic initiative to help small businesses make best use of broadband technologies.
- **Lifelong Learning Policy Executive**
- **Researchers Forum**

- **Rural Forum**
This brings together the public and private sectors to develop practical activities around rural issues. Its aim is to modernize and diversify the rural economy and make it more sustainable.
- **Transport Forum**
This focuses on transport priorities in relation to economic development and regeneration of the sub-region. It looks at issues such as congestion hotspots, access to economic assets and transport for deprived areas particularly in rural locations.
- **Tourism**
This works towards unifying existing arrangements for attracting visitors and business tourism. It works with tourist organisations to further encourage developments in this area.

Members

CSWP is a membership organisation with 52 members (May 2006). The membership base is broad, encompassing all of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire's local authorities, the Learning & Skills Council, the two Universities, Colleges, private businesses, community and voluntary organisations, Advantage West Midlands, the Heath Sector and Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber and Business Link.

Representing its partners

CSWP does not exist separately from its partners so they have key objectives that reflect what its partners want them to do. In 2006-07 these include:

- **2012 Olympics**
Raise awareness and provide information to local people, businesses and key stakeholders in regard to the opportunities for them as a result of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- **Regeneration**
Remove the disparity in wealth and opportunity between the Regeneration Zone and the rest of the sub-region
- **Innovation**
Develop the ideas of the innovative subgroups to maximize opportunities for the sub-region
- **High Technology**
Raise the profile of the High Technology Corridor, generate economic wealth and allow the sub-region to compete on an international platform
- **RITE (Regeneration, Innovation, Technology and Enterprise) Strategy**
Strive to seek out synergies and connections to add value to our partners work for the benefit of the sub-region
- **Services for Adults**
To extend the range and scope of the information advice and guidance services on careers and training to adults and employers across the sub-region
- **Connexions**
To ensure CSWP's Connexions Service is an invaluable and integral partner in the Local Authority Children's Trust Arrangements.

Value for money

CSWP has several objectives to increase their efficiency and effectiveness. They will successfully deliver defined objectives as outlined in the following strategies and plans:

- **Finance and Risk Plan**
- **Communication Strategy**
- **People Management and Development Strategy**
- **Business Development Strategy**
- **Information Technology Strategy**
- **Information Strategy**
- **Reduce Overheads**

Finance

	2006 – 07 £000	2007-08 £000	2008-09 £000
Income			
Connexions Grant	7,600	7,790	7,985
Membership /Interests	317	310	310
Regeneration Zone	338	338	
Corridors	142	142	
Coventry Warwickshire	420	430	440
Guidance			
Projects	3,325	3,555	4,000
Total income	12,142	12,565	12,735
Expenditure			
Salaries	9,935	10,273	10,500
Establishment costs	1,280	1,242	1,205
Contracted Delivery	856	900	890
Costs			
Total costs	12,071	12,415	12,595
Income over Expenditure	71	150	140
Options to finance			
- Accounting/HR package	(60)	(60)	(60)
- Leasing Costs – IT Equipment / Infrastructure	(35)	(70)	(80)
	(24)	20	(20)
Contribution to/(from) Reserves			

CSWP Board

Dr Brian Woods-Scawen - Chairman CSWP
Cllr Dave Arrowsmith - Coventry City Council
Professor Madeline Atkins - Coventry University
David Burton - Sherbourne Solutions Ltd
Mr Larry Coltman - Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber
Cllr Bob Crowther - Warwick District Council
Peter Deeley - Deeley Group Ltd
Stephen Nightingale, Warwickshire Voluntary Service Council
Cllr Hazel Noonan - Coventry City Council
Ursula Russell – Learning and Skills Council
Cllr Chris Saint - Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Ken Taylor - Advantage West Midlands
Paul Taylor - City College, Coventry
Bryan Stoten - UCHW NHS Trust
Professor Nigel Thrift - Warwick University