
Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

21st November, 2007

Report of

Cabinet Member, Climate Change, Housing & Sustainability

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC)

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of the Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That scrutiny notes the contents of the report and that the Council continues to appoint to this body.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The Severn-Trent Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) is a body through which the Environment Agency carry's out its work on flood defence and land drainage. The region is known as either the Severn Trent region (official title) or the Midland region. The boundaries are based around the drainage areas of the rivers and tributaries in the region and this takes the region across the welsh border in parts.
- 3.2 The committee is responsible for preparing an annual, programme of flood defence maintenance and improvement works, determining the necessary funding and obtaining department for environment food and rural affairs (DEFRA) approval, providing and operating flood-warning systems. Much of the work of the RFDC is around the monitoring of both capital works and revenue maintenance costs of the environment Agency's operations in the region.
- 3.3 The RFDC consists of a Chairman appointed by the Secretary of State for DEFRA and representatives appointed by Local Authorities, DEFRA and the Environment Agency with the committee meeting quarterly.
- 3.4 The City Council paid a local levy £109,688 in 2007/08, a rise of 18% on the previous year. This compares to Birmingham's contribution of £360,327 in 2007/08, a rise of 18% on the previous year. The local levy enables projects across the region to take place and the allocation of this funding is at the discretion of the RFDC.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 Coventry City Council pays a "levy" to the environment agency each year and membership of this committee is essential to ensure that the authority gets value for money from that contribution. Furthermore with the onset of climate change and the dawn of potentially challenging weather conditions in the future flooding and flood defence will be given increasing importance as an agenda by many different agencies including Coventry City Council. It is also important to note that this appointment represents Solihull on the committee as well as Coventry

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Councils representative on the Regional Flood Defence Committee is Councillor Ridley. In the period from November, 2006 to October, 2007 inclusive Councillor Ridley attended one of the four meetings held. .

5.2 There is no remuneration for the appointment.

List of background papers

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Schedule of City Council Appointment to Outside Bodies