



Coventry City Council

5.6

Public report

Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

21st November, 2007

Report of

Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership & Governance)

Title

Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - Coventry Solihull & Warwickshire Sub Regional Forum

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the details of the work of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Forum over the last year and information concerning attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 You are recommended to:

- (a) Note the work of the Forum and its benefits; and,
- (b) Continue the City Council's membership

3 Information on the work of the CSW Forum

- 3.1 The CSW Forum is composed of elected representatives for Coventry, Solihull Warwickshire County and District Councils. Members of both the Westminster and European Parliaments are eligible to attend *ex officio*. The work of the Forum is to exchange and share information on common issues that face the sub region and to identify and develop common sub regional approaches. The Forum works through consensus and aims to strengthen the mutual common interests of the various public bodies of the sub region.

- 3.2 During the last year, the Forum's work included consideration of issues related to:

- Coventry Airport
- Birmingham Airport
- The closure of Peugeot Ryton
- The future of the Ryton site
- Waste Management
- Stoneleigh Park Development
- Business Link
- Opportunities for the sub region from 2012 Olympics
- Public transport
- Regional Economic Strategy
- Regional Spatial Strategy
- Sub Regional Planning Strategy
- National Planning Policy

The Forum has discussed in detail issues arising out of the Regional economic and Regional spatial strategies. This has helped all parties to develop a common understanding and approach to many areas which has helped inform and strength Coventry City Council policy.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The City Council benefits directly from being a member of the CSW Forum. The representatives are able to share and discuss common issues with colleagues in partner Councils. There is no other body which has such a wide remit. With relevant officers from local authorities, CSW Partnership and other organisations in attendance the City representatives are able to ask questions and present the city's point of view.
- 4.2 By working together, the CSW Forum enables a more powerful voice to be given to common issues of concern. Member authorities are able to, and have strengthened, their responses to government and regional initiatives by referring to the agreed sub regional position. Similarly the Forum can provide a united sub regional position in any lobbying campaign.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 The City Council has four representatives on the Forum: Councillors Ken Taylor, Kevin Foster, Ken Charley and John McNicholas. Kevin Foster replaced Councillor Dave Arrowsmith in April 2007 when he succeeded as Cabinet Member for City Development. A total of five meetings were held of the Forum from November, 2006 to October, 2007 inclusive. Of these meetings Councillor Taylor attended one, Councillor Arrowsmith one, Councillors Foster and Charley three each and Councillor McNicholas attended four.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration for belonging to or attending the Forum meetings

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