

---

**Report to**

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

6<sup>th</sup> February, 2008

**Report of**

Councillor Ken Taylor

**Title**

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Regional Assembly

---

**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> 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 the West Midlands Regional Assembly over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Coventry City Council continues to make appointments to the Regional Assembly.

**3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 Currently the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) is responsible for developing and co-ordinating a strategic vision for improving the quality of life in the region. The Assembly is responsible for setting priorities and delivering regional strategies. The areas where the Assembly has specific responsibilities range from business and economic development through to social inclusion, and regional planning through to the environment.
- 3.2 The WMRA is also the Regional Planning Body, working closely with the region's local authorities to formulate and deliver a planning strategy that works effectively across the region and it is responsible for the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 3.3 The Assembly also manages the strategic review of Advantage West Midlands, the regional development agency, co-ordinating the views of the region to inform the policies and work of Advantage West Midlands. In addition the WMRA is a key consultee for national government on regional and national policy issues.
- 3.4 The Treasury Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration has recommended that Regional Assemblies should cease to exist in 2010 with the role of developing an Integrated Strategy for Spatial Planning, Transport and Economic Development passing to Regional Development Agencies.

3.5 Key activities in 2007/08 for the Assembly will include the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Regional Economic Strategy and the development of regional arrangements to replace the Regional Assembly in 2010.

#### **4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment**

4.1 As the WMRA has statutory responsibility for a range of regional strategies, particularly regional planning and the review of Advantage West Midlands, it is of significant importance to Coventry that the City Council is represented on the Regional Assembly to contribute to the development of regional policy and strategies, to influence national policy development and the development of the replacement arrangements for the Assembly.

#### **5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment**

5.1 Councillors Taylor and Mutton are Coventry City Council's representatives on the West Midlands Local Government Association Regional Assembly. During the period of November 2006 and October 2007 inclusive four meetings were held, of which Councillor Taylor attended three meetings and Councillor Mutton one. Councillor Matchet attended two meetings as a substitute.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

#### List of background papers

Proper officer:

| Author:               | Telephone     |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Councillor Ken Taylor | 024 7683 1000 |

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:

Jenni Venn, Corporate Policy and Research Manager 024 7683 3741

Chief Executive's Directorate

Chris Hill, Democratic Support 024 7683 3049

Papers open to Public Inspection

**Description of paper**

**Location** CH59

Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies

