
Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

6th February, 2008

Report of

Councillor Ken Taylor

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies: Local Government Association -General Assembly

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 At their meeting on 10th 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 Local Government Association over the preceding twelve months and includes details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the City Council should continue to send representatives to the Local Government Association General Assembly.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) promotes the interests of English and Welsh local authorities and is a voluntary lobbying organisation.

3.2 The LGA exists to promote better local government and to work with and for member authorities to realise a shared vision of local government that enables local people to shape a distinctive and better future for their locality and its communities. The LGA's aims to put local councils at the heart of the drive to improve public services and to work with government to ensure that the policy, legislative and financial context in which they operate, supports that objective.

3.3 The members of the LGA include county councils, metropolitan district councils, English unitary authorities, London boroughs, shire district councils and Welsh unitary authorities. The LGA also represents fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities.

3.4 The LGA's strategic objectives for 2007-2008 are:

- deepening and strengthening relationships with member councils;
- deepening and strengthening relationships with partners;
- maintaining the capacity to influence government;
- strengthening the capability to influence the public;

- developing the capacity to initiate policy and initiate debate about policy;
- adopting an intelligent, proactive approach to generating news and interest in the sector and the organisation;
- developing the LGA as an exemplar organisation providing value for money and high quality services to our customers.

3.5 The remit of the Local Government Association covers all the activities of Local Government. Key strategic issues that have been addressed over the last year include the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act and work on the development of Local Area Agreements.

3.6 Described as the "parliament" for local Government, the LGA General Assembly meetings are held twice a year. Activities at the meetings include the approval of accounts and appointments for the LGA and the review of progress.

3.5 The City Council pays an annual subscription fee to belong to the Local Government Association.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The appointments to the LGA General Assembly provide Coventry City Council with a voice and the ability to understand and influence national policy issues through working with the other local authorities at a national level. The LGA is the principal lobbying organisation for the local government sector.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The Coventry City Council's representatives on the Local Government Association – General Assembly are Councillors Duggins, Mutton, O'Neill and Taylor. During the period between November 2006 and October 2007 inclusive two meetings were held. Councillor Mutton attended both of the meetings and Councillors McNicholas and Ridley attended one meeting each as substitutes.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
LGA 2005 Annual Report	CH 38
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH 59

