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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

5<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

**Report of**  
Councillor Sawdon - Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure & Libraries)

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Museum of British Road Transport Trust  
(Coventry) Limited (MBRT)

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### **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 MBRT over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That members note the report and the work undertaken by MBRT.  
2.2 That Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that Council continue to appoint members to the Board of MBRT on an annual basis.

### **3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 Some fifty years ago Coventry's unique industrial motoring heritage inspired the City Fathers to start collecting key objects that portrayed the dynamic role of these Coventry industries. Since then the Museum's collection has grown to become recognised internationally as one of the truly great road transport collections in the world.
- 3.2 In 2004 MBRT's 'landmark' entrance and frontage was opened and, at long last, the Museum was given a public profile and image that did justice to the City's unique road transport history. Since then, the Museum has progressed out of all recognition and is the second most visited museum in the whole region.
- 3.3 It also benefits from the enormous sense of pride it brings to local people because it is they, and there forebears, who throughout their working lives, have created the objects which are now held in such high regard throughout the world – the Museum is an incredible testament to their skills, ingenuity & inventive talents.
- 3.4 Since the 2004 refurbishment the board have faced many challenges including dealing with an asbestos problem as well as providing a sustainable future through business planning. Since the last report a new Chief Executive, Gary Hill, has been appointed. The City Council financial contribution in 2006/07 was a service contract of £863k and a loan of £199k.

3.5 MBRT continues to be the City's premier visitor attraction with a record 297,964 visitors in the last year.

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

4.1 It is essential that the City Council maintain its membership of this board in order to influence and take part in discussions over the future direction of the Museum. Membership of the board also demonstrates our commitment to partnership working and to the future of the MBRT and its independent trust. In my view, due to possible conflict of interest, the Cabinet Member should not be a voting Director.

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

5.1 Coventry City Council's representatives are Councillor Sawdon, appointed May 2007, and Councillor Skipper. Councillor Ridley was a representative until May 2007. During the period January 2007 and December 2007 inclusive 4 meetings were held of the Museum of British Road Transport Board. Of these four meetings both Councillor Ridley and Councillor Sawdon each attended the two meetings available for them to attend. Councillor Skipper attended three of the four meetings held.

5.2 Members receive no remuneration for these appointments.

#### List of background papers

##### Proper officer:

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Councillor Sawdon

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Papers open to Public Inspection

##### **Description of paper**

**Location** CH59

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies