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**Report to**

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2008

**Report of**

Councillor Ahmed

**Title**

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Coventry Refugee Centre

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**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of Coventry Refugee Centre over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That appointment should continue to be made to the organisation.

**3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 The Centre provides essential information and practical help to thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in the Coventry area. Many of the clients have only a limited command of English, so the Centre offers help when dealing with the appropriate agencies, organisations and service providers. The work of the Centre falls into two main categories:

- Help for asylum seekers in the many problems they face with subsistence, housing, health, racial harassment etc
- Help to set up home for those given leave to remain

- 3.2 The main activities for the year continued to focus on the delivery of agreed services. The new projects that commenced during 2007 were the Refugee Additional Support Project (RASP) and Art Therapy.

- 3.3 As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007, the Coventry Refugee Centre's staff compliment was 32 and the number of volunteers was around 80 - 100 who have provided approximately 9,000 hours of voluntary service during the year.

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

- 4.1 Coventry City Council provides core funding for this organisation and membership of the Board affords considerable synergy with other service provision of the Council.

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

- 5.1 The City Council's representatives on the Coventry Refugee Centre are Councillors Ahmed, Mrs Bigham and Chater. In the period from March 2007 to February 2008 inclusive a total of 12 Board meetings and an AGM were held. Councillor Ahmed attended 1 Board meeting, Councillor Mrs Bigham attended 6 Board meetings and Councillor Chater

attended a total of 11 Board meetings. Councillors Mrs Bigham and Chater both attended the AGM meeting.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

<b>Description of paper</b>	<b>Location</b>
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH59