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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

18<sup>th</sup> February, 2009

**Report of**  
Councillor Gary Ridley – Cabinet Member (City Development)

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee

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**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of West Midlands Planning & Transportation Sub Committee over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the City Council continues to be represented by the Cabinet Member for City Development and the appropriate Shadow Cabinet Member

**3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 This body is a Sub – Committee of the West Midlands Joint Committee and it' work is focussed on strategic planning & transportation matters. By working jointly on these matters the metropolitan area is able to exert a grater influence on national and regional policy and achieve efficiency savings. An important principle is that the work of the Sub-Committee and supporting officers must focus on those areas where there will be added value from joint metropolitan working.
- 3.2 The transportation aspect is currently primarily related to the delivery of the West Midlands Joint Local Transport Plan and the effective and efficient use of associated funding.
- 3.3 Key transport issues addressed in the past year have included the monitoring of the transport investment programme for the area, consideration of the opportunities provided by the recently approved Transport Bill in relation to both bus services and future transport governance and inputs to the new regional funding advice to be submitted by the region to the government shortly.
- 3.4 The main focus for strategic planning has been the Phase 2 review of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the government response – particularly with respect to new housing proposals. Initial consideration of the implications of the Phase 3 review has also been undertaken

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

4.1 By working jointly with our metropolitan colleagues we have a much stronger voice when it comes to influencing national and regional policy. The joint technical work undertaken is a more cost efficient way of working than the City Council undertaking the necessary work independently.

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

5.1 During the period January to December 2008 there were 7 meetings of the Sub Committee.

Councillor Ridley attended 2 out of 5 meetings (June to December)

Councillor McNicholas attended 4 out of 7 meetings (January to December)

Councillor Gazey attended 2 out of 2 meetings (January to June)

Councillor Ridley also attended 1 meeting of the Planning and Transportation Monitoring Group (November)

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH59