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**Report to**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

18<sup>th</sup> March 2009

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

**Title**  
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies - Local Enterprise Growth Initiative Partnership Board

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### 1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of **Local Enterprise Growth Initiative Partnership Board** over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

### 2 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the City Council will continue to advise the LEGI partnership board by providing support through three Councillors, of which the Cabinet Member for City Development has the role of Chair of the Board.

### 3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Coventry was successful in winning over £12.6 million of LEGI funding to work with local people and businesses to help transform Coventry into a city of enterprise, over a three year period, 2006-2009. A further two years funding has been confirmed within the Area Based Grant until 2011.
- 3.2 Coventry was one of 20 areas across the country to have won LEGI funding, and the only one in the West Midlands.
- 3.3 At the heart of the LEGI programme is its work to engage and inspire local people to access a range of co-ordinated, high quality services that will enable them to:
- Start their own business
  - Grow existing businesses
  - Move into employment
- 3.4 LEGI works with other enterprise activities in order to provide the broadest possible service to individuals and businesses.
- 3.5 Coventry City Council is the Accountable Body for the LEGI programme. As the Accountable Body, the city council enters into a funding agreement, on behalf of the LEGI

Partnership Board, with Government Office for the West Midlands. As the accountable body, the City Council agrees to take the risk for the money the Partnership allocates and spends in implementing its objectives.

3.6 The LEGI Partnership has already delivered the following outcomes and is on target to meet and exceed in many cases the outcomes agreed in the original bid:

- **Engaged with over 2660 people** from the most disadvantaged areas of the City;
- Seen over **401 individuals set up their own business**;
- Supported over **644 existing businesses** in the LEGI area to grow;
- **Created over 280 jobs**;
- Seen an **increase in new sales of £5.4 million** as a result of working with businesses; and
- Worked with over **815 people to help them move into employment**.

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

4.1 The continued appointments to the LEGI Partnership Board would:

- Provide a direct link between the LEGI Partnership Board and the City Council Accountable Body Manager to ensure that the risk of breaching Government Office guidelines in the delivery of the scheme is minimised.
- Ensure that the City Council as a partner can influence the decisions taken by the Board.
- Ensure that the City Council as a partner can add value to the LEGI Programme through establishing strategic links between the Partnership and Council where necessary.
- Provide a direct link between Cabinet and the LEGI Partnership Board in terms of progress and performance updates.

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

5.1 Councillors Ridley, Bigham and Ridge are the City Council's representatives on the LEGI Partnership Board. Between April 2008 and the end of March 2009, there will have been 4 meetings of the Board. At the time of writing, 3 of these have taken place and a further Board meeting will happen on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009. For the three meetings that have taken place Cllr Ridley attended 3, Cllr Bigham attended 3 and Cllr Ridge 1. There is due to be a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 with Cllrs Ridley and Bigham expected to be in attendance.

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** CH59

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies