
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

1st April, 2009

Report of
Councillor Foster – Cabinet Member (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money)

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – **Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership**

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of **Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership (CSWP)** over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the Coventry City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Coventry City Council continues its membership of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership (CSWP) for 2009/10.
- 2.2 It is recommended that Coventry City Council confirms that Cllr Kevin Foster, Cllr Gary Ridley and Cllr Ken Taylor continue as the Council's representatives on the CSWP Board.
- 2.3 It is recommended that Coventry City Council confirms that Cllr Kevin Foster and Cllr Gary Ridley continue as the Council's representatives on the CSWP Economic Sub-Board.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Appendix 1 contains information on the work of CSWP over the last year.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 CSWP was developed by Coventry City Council and our partners to give expressions to sub-regional work across local authority boundaries on important economic development and regeneration issues. This has included, for example, tourism, transport and industrial diversification. It acts as an important linkage to Advantage West Midlands through the Regeneration Zone and High Technology Corridor work. It provides a forum for local authorities, the universities, the private sector and other key partners to work strategically to represent and advance the position of the sub-region. CSWP continues to be an important element in Coventry City Council's wider partnership work with neighbouring local authorities and communities especially in the context of the sub national review and the Growth agenda.

- 4.2 Specific outcomes of the membership of the partnership have included the sub regional endorsement of the Coventry City Centre outline application to Advantage West Midlands for £40million. Through this partnership it has been possible to agree the importance of the transformation of the city centre in delivering our ambitious city and sub regional growth targets.
- 4.3 More recently the city has ensured a position in the Coventry and Warwickshire Economic Recovery Partnership to coordinate activity to business and the public in response to the economic downturn. In addition it is part of the Say it Loud Forum whose purpose is to provide a loud, assertive voice for our Sub-Region which will highlight progress, developments and actions to counter the economic down-turn. The Forum will receive regular reports and agree on the key messages to be communicated to local, regional, national and international audiences.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 Cllr Ken Taylor, Cllr Kevin Foster and Cllr Gary Ridley are Coventry City Council's representatives on the CSWP Board. Since January 2008 there have been five meetings of the Board, of which Cllr Ken Taylor has attended three, Cllr Kevin Foster has attended five and Cllr Gary Ridley has attended one.

Cllr Kevin Foster and Cllr Gary Ridley are Coventry City Council's representatives on the Economic Development Sub-Board. The Economic Development sub-board met in September 2008. Cllr Foster and Cllr Ridley attended. The meeting scheduled for January 2009 was postponed. The next one is 8th April 2009.

- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with these appointments.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

Location CH59

Summary of the Work of CSWP 2008-2009

Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Ltd (CSWP), created in 1994, is the Economic Development Partnership for the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire sub-region. The partnership exists to provide a joint voice on economic development and policy issues and is supported by a wide range of public and private sector agencies from across the sub-region, including local county, city, district and metropolitan authorities. CSWP is a membership organisation with 33 members (January 2009). The membership base is broad, encompassing all of Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire's local authorities, the Learning & Skills Council, jobcentre Plus, the two Universities, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, Colleges, private businesses, community and voluntary organisations, Advantage West Midlands, the Health Sector and Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber and Business Link.

Governance Changes 2008

In 2008 there was a review of the arrangements for the governance of CSWP's Economic Development Function. As part of this review there was the creation of a single Economic Development Sub-Board, and the standing down of the Economic and Social Renaissance and Enterprise and Innovation Sub-Boards.

The Strategy Advisory Group and Resources Advisory Group, that had supported the High Technology Corridor and Regeneration Zone respectively, were disbanded and replaced by one advisory group.

The C&W 2012 Partnership and the Destination Management Partnership were brought under the auspices of the Economic Development Sub-Board. CSWP also worked with Creative Partnerships Coventry to develop appropriate arrangements to bring them under the CSWP umbrella. They are now known as Cre8us.

Major areas of partnership working include:

- **The Coventry & Nuneaton Regeneration Zone**
Leading on the spread of prosperity from the south of the sub-region to all areas of Coventry and Nuneaton and Bedworth. CSWP were successful in bidding to become the package owners for the ERDF Priority 3 theme Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) for Coventry and Warwickshire. A Package Plan will set out projects and activity over the period 2007-13.
- **ERDF Sustainable Urban Development**
The accountable body for the SUD package plan 2007-13
- **The Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire High Technology Corridor**
Promoting economic modernisation and diversification and the development of a knowledge based economy.
- **London 2012 – Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership, 2012 Games**
Lead/ host organisation for the CW 2012 Partnership Project www.cswp.org.uk/london2012
Responsible for maximising the opportunities presented by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games across five strategic themes of Sport, Business, Culture, Tourism and Education. Raising awareness and providing information to all key sub-regional stakeholders.
- **Central Vision**

Central Vision is a new internet based television channel. CentralVision offers a new approach to local broadcasting with content being user-led. CentralVision will screen programmes made by businesses, community organisations, youth and local talent seeking to get their work noticed.

- **Researchers Forum**

The Sub-Regional Researchers Forum has successfully operated for a number of years. The groups bring together researchers with a particular interest in economic development (but not exclusively) to share research and intelligence to inform policy/ project development across the sub-region. The group have traditionally come together to undertake a sub-regional economic assessment and are assessing the requirements of the new economic assessments under the SNR. The group also has well established links with regional organisations such as the West Midlands Regional Observatory.

- **Rural Forum**

This brings together the public and private sectors to develop practical activities around rural issues. Its aim is to modernise and diversify the rural economy and make it more sustainable.

- **Transport Issues**

CSWP currently support the work of the sub-regional transport officers group (led by Warwickshire County Council). Financial support has recently been provided to support a Strategic Assessment of Public Transport issues related to the Regional Spatial Strategy for Coventry and Warwickshire

- **Coventry & Warwickshire Destination Management Partnership (DMP)**

CSWP assist in supporting strategic tourism priorities across the sub-region through the creation of the Coventry & Warwickshire DMP. The DMPs are the recognised channel through which AWM direct financial support for the leisure and tourism sector. The DMP bring together a number of sub-regional organisations including the local authorities, private sector and destination management organisations such as CV1 and Shakespeare Country. CSWP also actively support the Coventry and Warwickshire Tourism Officers Group.

- **LAA 165 Sub-Regional Co-ordination Group**

Whilst each Local Authority in the sub-region has developed its own Local Area Agreement (LAA), a number of close synergies in what each individual LAA strives to do have been identified. One area which all three local authorities chose to address was the number of residents in the working age population who were educated to a Level 4 or equivalent. This target is identified in the LAA as National Indicator 165 (NI 165). It was felt that a co-ordinated approach at a sub-regional level would be advantageous in identifying joint actions which could help meet the target in each local authority area.

- **The Coventry and Warwickshire Economic Recovery Partnership**

In response to the current economic climate CSWP have established CWERP to help co-ordinate the sub-regional response to the credit crunch. A group of partners have been pulled together to offer co-ordinated advice to both local businesses and individuals affected by the credit crunch. This builds on the successful Peugeot Partnership model employment by the partnership.

- **CSW Sub-Regional Economic Development Strategy**

CSWP are working collaboratively with partners to develop a new Sub-Regional Economic Development Strategy with a spatial focus for the first time. This document will set the priorities for the sub-region through to 2026 and will complement the introduction of the new "Regional Single Integrated Strategy" as identified in the sub-national review of economic development. The strategy will be accompanied by a detailed Delivery Framework.

Value for money

CSWP has several objectives to increase their efficiency and effectiveness. They will successfully deliver defined objectives as outlined in the following strategies and plans:

- **Finance and Risk Plan**
- **Communication Strategy**
- **People Management and Development Strategy**
- **Business Development Strategy**
- **Information Technology Strategy**
- **Information Strategy**
- **Reduce Overheads**

Finance

	2006 – 07 £000	2007-08 £000	2008-09 £000	2009-10 £000
Income				
Coventry City Council 2012 Partnership	100,000	60,000	60,000	54,000
Connexions Grant	7,600	7,790	7,985	7,363
Membership /Interests	317	310	310	310
Regeneration Zone Corridors	338	338		182
Coventry Warwickshire Guidance Projects	142	142	440	206
	420	430		-
	3,325	3,555	4,000	8,439
Total income	12,142	12,565	12,735	16,500
Expenditure				
Salaries	9,935	10,273	10,500	10,000
Establishment costs	1,280	1,242	1,205	1,400
Contracted Delivery Costs	856	900	890	4,885
Total costs	12,071	12,415	12,595	215
Income over Expenditure	71	150	140	
Options to finance				
- Accounting/HR package	(60)	(60)	(60)	(Agresso 18)
- Leasing	(35)	(70)	(80)	(Aspire 45)
Costs – IT Equipment / Infrastructure	(24)	20	(20)	Total 63
Contribution to/(from) Reserves				Lynx (152)

CSWP Board

Dr Brian Woods-Scawen - Chairman CSWP
Cllr Gary Ridley - Coventry City Council
Professor Madeline Atkins - Coventry University
David Burton - Sherbourne Solutions Ltd
Mr Larry Coltman - Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber
Peter Deeley - Deeley Group Ltd
Stephen Nightingale, Warwickshire Voluntary Service Council
Cllr Kevin Foster - Coventry City Council
Ursula Russell – Learning and Skills Council
Cllr Chris Saint - Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Ken Taylor - Advantage West Midlands
Paul Taylor - City College, Coventry
Professor Nigel Thrift - Warwick University
Cllr Ian Hillas – Solihull MBC
Cllr June Tandy – Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Les Topham – Stratford District Council
Mary Matthews – Blitz Games
Cllr Neil Campbell – Rugby Borough Council
Nigel Snook – EDI plc
Steve Stewart – CSWP Connexions