
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

13 May, 2009

Report of
Councillor Ken Taylor

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies: Local Government Association -General Assembly

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 At their meeting on 10th 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 report sets out details of the work of the Local Government Association over the preceding twelve months, together with details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the City Council should continue to send representatives to the Local Government Association General Assembly.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) promotes the interests of English and Welsh local authorities and is a voluntary lobbying organisation.

3.2 The LGA exists to promote better local government and to work with and for member authorities to realise a shared vision of local government that enables local people to shape a distinctive and better future for their locality and its communities. The LGA aims to put local councils at the heart of the drive to improve public services and to work with government to ensure that the policy, legislative and financial context in which they operate, supports that objective.

3.3 The members of the LGA include county councils, metropolitan district councils, English unitary authorities, London boroughs, shire district councils and Welsh unitary authorities. The LGA also represents fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities.

3.4 The LGA's strategic objectives for 2008/2009 are:

- lead debate, drive change and make a difference through our six priority campaigns
- deepen and strengthen the role of councillors in the LGA group, and base all our work on the experience and practice of councils and councillors
- in the lead up to an election, position councils, and the people and places they represent, at the heart of the party manifestos

- lead and influence national policy and secure greater powers, responsibilities and resources for councils
- equip our staff to deliver the best service to member councils within a new culture of shared enterprise
- continue to develop and improve the LGA Group to provide value for money

3.5 The remit of the Local Government Association covers all the activities of local government. Key strategic issues that have been addressed over the last year include responding to the impact of the economic recession; developing a response to the Sub-National review of Economic Development and addressing changes to the national performance framework for local government.

3.6 Described as the "parliament" for local government, the LGA General Assembly meetings are held twice a year. Activities at the meetings include the approval of accounts and appointments for the LGA and the review of progress.

3.5 The City Council pays an annual subscription fee to belong to the Local Government Association.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The appointments to the LGA General Assembly provide Coventry City Council with a voice and the ability to understand and influence national policy issues through working with the other local authorities at a national level. The LGA is the principal lobbying organisation for the local government sector.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The Coventry City Council representatives on the LGA General Assembly are Councillors Taylor, Foster, Mutton and Duggins. In the period from January 2008 to December 2008 inclusive, only one meeting of the General Assembly was held. The representatives or their substitutes attended the meeting.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer: Councillor Ken Taylor

Author:	Telephone
Councillor Ken Taylor	
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)	024 7683 1000

Other contributors:	
Jenni Venn, Corporate Policy and Research Manager,	
Chief Executive's Directorate	024 7683 3741
Richard Brankowski, Governance Services	024 7683 3077

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
LGA 2005 Annual Report	CH 38