
Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

13 May, 2009

Report of

Councillor Ken Taylor

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Local Government Association

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 West Midlands Local Government Association 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 continue to send representatives to this outside body for 2009/10 although it is anticipated that the Association will be wound up during this period.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

3.1 The West Midlands LGA is a voluntary association of the 38 local authorities in the West Midlands region. It represents the broad range of local government interests at a regional level, promoting and supporting authorities as well as influencing regional policies which affect the 'economic, social and environmental well being' of their communities. The City Council pays a membership fee to belong to the WMLGA.

3.2 The West Midlands LGA aims to be:

- the regional voice for local government in the West Midlands and to represent the collective views of its constituent authorities to other regional institutions, the UK Government and EU institutions on policy issues.
- A partnership mechanism through which local authorities can work together and with other organisations on a regional basis, where such collaboration is either essential or highly beneficial and supports the improvement of public services.
- A provider of 'value added' services - to support people and organisational improvement, particularly in the areas of corporate consultancy, intelligence gathering and information sharing promotion of best practice, training and development services.

3.3 The West Midlands Local Government Association is closely associated with the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) and they share a Secretariat. The local government members of the WMRA are also members of the WMLGA Council.

3.4 The Treasury Sub-National Review has recommended that Regional Assemblies should cease to exist by 2010 and replaced with Local Authority Leaders Boards. It is expected that the West Midlands Local Authority Leaders Board will take over the role of the West Midlands Regional Assembly and the West Midlands Local Government Association in 2009/10,

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The appointments provide Coventry City Council with a voice and the ability to influence regional issues through working with the other local authorities in the West Midlands and to provide a regional voice for the West Midlands at a national level. It is expected that this role will pass to the Local Authority Leaders Board in 2009/10.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The Coventry City Council's representatives on the West Midlands Local Government Association Council are Councillors Taylor and Mutton with Councillors Foster and Duggins as their named alternates. In the period January, 2008 to December, 2008 inclusive there have been 4 meetings held. Councillors Taylor attended 3 of the meetings and Councillors Mutton and Foster each attended 1 of the meetings.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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
---	---------------

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
WMLGA Annual Report	CH 38