
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

6 January 2010

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

Title
Report back on the work of outside bodies – Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of **Enterprising Coventry 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 Enterprising Coventry 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 a Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) bid in March 2005. The bid was for ten years and by the end of March 2011 Coventry will have benefited from in the region of £20million focused on intensive enterprise and employment activity across the city.
- 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 As the LEGI funded programme came to an end in March 2009 and Area Based Grant funding was secured to continue this work, the programme was renamed as "Enterprising Coventry." The LEGI Partnership Board is now known as the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board.
- 3.4 At the heart of the Enterprising Coventry 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
- 3.5 Enterprising Coventry works with other enterprise activities in order to provide the broadest possible service to individuals and businesses.

- 3.6 Coventry City Council is the accountable body for the Enterprising Coventry programme.
- 3.7 Despite unfavourable economic conditions the programme is on track to meet the majority of its targets for 2009/10.
- The forecast for new business start ups is currently at 183.
 - The businesses assisted target of 300 is within reach with the current forecast at 291.
 - % of new businesses still trading after 12 months is set to achieve its target of 70%.
 - New business opportunities created through new investments is set to far exceed its target of 15 with a forecasted total of 21.
 - Number of people assisted into employment has a target of 800, currently 216 people are forecast to be assisted into employment. An action plan to mitigate against this shortfall in job outcomes is being developed and implemented.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The continued appointments to the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board will:
- Provide a direct link between the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board and the City Council Accountable Body Manager to ensure that the risk of breaching funding 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 Enterprising Coventry Programme through establishing strategic links between the Partnership and Council where necessary.
 - Provide a direct link between Cabinet and the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board in terms of progress and performance updates.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 Councillors Ridley, Mrs Bigham and Ridge are the City Council's representatives on the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board. Between April 2009 and the end of December 2009, there have been 2 meetings of the Board. For the 2 meetings that have taken place Cllr Ridley attended 2, Cllr Mrs Bigham attended 2 and Cllr Ridge 0. The next Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board meeting will take place in January 2010.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with these appointments.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

Martin Yardley, Director of City Services and Development

Author:

Councillor Ridley

Ryan McHugh – Programme Development Manager, City Services and Development Directorate
- Telephone: 024 7683 4805

Other contributors:

Andy Williams – Resources & Governance Manager, City Services and Development Directorate

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Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies