
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

6 January 2010

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 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) was created in 1997 to promote 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 priorities for 2009/2010 are:
- **Recession** – the economic downturn, and the role of councils in supporting their communities through, and leading them out of recession sets the context for our campaigning and lobbying activity across every policy area. Our work on safer communities will help tackle the rise in crime and antisocial behaviour already evident as a result of the downturn.
 - **Improvement and the reputation of local government** – supporting councils prepare for the new Comprehensive Area Assessment performance framework to deliver improvements for local people and to help councils build their reputation locally and nationally.

- **Efficiency and value for money** – to secure savings across the year in the costs of the LGA, whilst at the same time lobbying at every opportunity to safeguard or secure additional government funding that reflects the cost of delivering existing or new services areas.

- 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; the national performance framework for local government; service improvement (including social care); efficiency; climate change; and local government finance.
- 3.6 Described as the "parliament" for local government, the LGA General Assembly meetings are held once 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. It is expected that the Council's LGA subscription for 2010/11 will be reduced by 20% to £68,760 following a detailed review of membership subscriptions by the LGA.

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 2009 to December 2009 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

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

LGA Annual report 2009

LGA Annual accounts 2009

Location

CH60

www.lga.gov.uk

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