
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

17 February, 2010

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

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This reports sets out details of the work of West Midlands Planning & Transportation Sub Committee over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the City Council continues to be represented by the Cabinet Member for City Development and the appropriate Shadow Cabinet Member

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 This body is a Sub – Committee of the West Midlands Joint Committee and it' work is focussed on strategic planning & transportation matters. By working jointly on these matters the metropolitan area is able to exert a grater influence on national and regional policy and achieve efficiency savings. An important principle is that the work of the Sub-Committee and supporting officers must focus on those areas where there will be added value from joint metropolitan working.
- 3.2 The transportation aspect is currently primarily related to the delivery of the West Midlands Joint Local Transport Plan and the effective and efficient use of associated funding. To this end a separate Members Management Group has been established. Both City Council representatives attend this meeting.
- 3.3 Key transport issues addressed in the past year have included the monitoring of the transport investment programme for the area, consideration of the opportunities provided by the recently approved Transport Bill in relation to both bus services and future transport governance and inputs to the new regional funding advice to be submitted by the region to the government shortly.
- 3.4 The main focus for strategic planning has been the Phase 2 review of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the government response. The Sub-Committee sought to agree a joint position on key policy issues for the Examination in Public earlier this year and the Panel report is generally supportive of the P & T stance. Initial consideration of the implications of the Phase 3 review and early consultation has also been undertaken.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 By working jointly with our metropolitan colleagues we have a much stronger voice when it comes to influencing national and regional policy. The joint technical work undertaken is a more cost efficient way of working than the City Council undertaking the necessary work independently. This has been well illustrated by the input to the RSS Phase 2 Examination in Public.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 During the period December 2008 to November 2009 inclusive there were 5 meetings held. Councillor Ridley attended 1 of the meetings, and Councillor McNicholas attended 2. Cllr Williams substituted for Cllr Ridley on two occasions.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

Author:

Telephone 024 7683 1210

Trevor Errington, Head of Planning & Strategic Transportation

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Councillor Gary Ridley, Cabinet Member (City Development)

Other contributors:

Michelle Rose, Governance Services Officer, Customer and Workforce Services Directorate -

Telephone: 024 7683 3073

Chris Hill, Clerical Officer, Customer and Workforce Services Directorate –

Telephone: 024 7683 3049

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Location

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies CH69