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**Report to**

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

14<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**Report of**

Councillor Ken Taylor

**Title**

Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Forum 2009-2010

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**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report sets out the details of the work of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Forum over the last year and information concerning attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 You are recommended to:
- (a) Note the work of the Forum and its benefits; and,
  - (b) Continue the City Council's membership

**3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 The CSW Forum is composed of elected representatives for Coventry, Solihull Warwickshire County and District Councils. Members of both the Westminster and European Parliaments are eligible to attend *ex officio*. The work of the Forum is to exchange and share information on common issues that face the sub region and to identify and develop common sub regional approaches. The Forum works through consensus and aims to strengthen the mutual common interests of the various public bodies of the sub region.
- 3.2 During the last year, the Forum's work included consideration of issues related to:
- Coventry Airport
  - Birmingham Airport
  - The closure of Peugeot Ryton
  - The future of the Ryton site
  - Waste Management
  - Stoneleigh Park Development
  - Business Link

- 3.3 Significant opportunities and challenges are beginning to arise through changes in political management at a regional and sub-regional level, and the Leader of the Council provided a briefing note to all Councillors in this regard at Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.
- 3.4 The CSW Forum continues to meet to consider strategic sub-regional issues, but other meetings/organisations are also helping us to engage with the Sub-Regional agenda.
- 3.5 During the last years, the CSW Forum has dealt with key and strategic issues that effect the sub-region especially the sub-regions collective response to the Regional Spatial Strategy, Housing Strategy (and engagement with the Homes and Communities Agency), Sub-Regional Economic Strategy, etc.

The Forum has discussed in detail issues arising out of the Regional economic and Regional spatial strategies. This has helped all parties to develop a common understanding and approach to many areas, which has helped inform, and strength Coventry City Council policy.

#### **4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment**

- 4.1 The City Council benefits directly from being a member of the CSW Forum. The representatives are able to share and discuss common issues with colleagues in partner Councils. There is no other body, which has such a wide remit. With relevant officers from local authorities, CSW Partnership and other organisations in attendance the City representatives are able to ask questions and present the city's point of view.
- 4.2 By working together, the CSW Forum enables a more powerful voice to be given to common issues of concern. Member authorities are able to, and have strengthened, their responses to government and regional initiatives by referring to the agreed sub regional position. Similarly the Forum can provide a united sub regional position in any lobbying campaign.

#### **5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment**

- 5.1 The City Council has four representatives on the Forum: Councillors Ken Taylor, Cliff Ridge (from May 2009), Ken Charley and John McNicholas. In the period January, 2009 to December, 2009 inclusive three meetings of the Forum were held of which Councillor Taylor attended 2, Councillor Charley attended 1, Councillor Ridge attended the 1 meeting he was entitled to attend and Councillor McNicholas did not attend any of the meetings.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment

##### List of background papers

Proper officer: John McGuigan, Director of Strategic Planning and Partnerships

Author: Cllr Ken Taylor,  
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Telephone 024 7683 1000

##### Other contributors:

Trevor Errington, City Development Directorate – Tel: 024 7683 1230

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##### **Description of paper**

**Location** CH60

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies