
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

14th July 2010

Report of
Councillor Ken Taylor

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Leaders Board 2009-2010

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 Leaders Board 2009/10 and gives details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the council continues to send a representative to the West Midlands Leaders Board.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The West Midlands Leaders Board is the new regional decision making body for local government in the West Midlands. It brings together the leaders of all 33 local authorities in the West Midlands and aims to provide a strong, coherent voice for local government and to promote the West Midlands on regional, national and international issues.
- 3.2 The West Midlands Leaders Board was formed in response to the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act, which removed Regional Assemblies and required the creation of a new organisation to take on responsibility, along with the Regional Development Agency, for a single regional strategy.
- 3.3 In July 2009 the West Midlands Leaders Board took over the role of the West Midlands Local Government Association. In March 2010 the Leaders Board submitted its 'scheme for establishment and operation' to the Secretary of State. This scheme was approved allowing the West Midlands Leaders Board to be formally established from 1st April 2010, for the purposes of the Act.
- 3.4 The Leaders Board is now responsible, along with Advantage West Midlands, for developing a new Strategy for the West Midlands which will replace the Regional Spatial Strategy (which was developed by the West Midlands Regional Assembly) and the Regional Economic Strategy (which was developed by Advantage West Midlands). The Leaders Board and Advantage West Midlands have established a Joint Strategy & Investment Board to take forward work on the new Strategy for the West Midlands.

3.5 One of the main aims of the West Midlands Leaders Board is to bring both the focus and the mechanisms for working together in policy areas where a collective approach will bring about economic, social and environmental prosperity and drive added value.

3.6 The Leaders Board has agreed its priorities for 2010-2011:

- Improve the economic position of the West Midlands so that businesses can grow and prosper
- Show local government's leadership role and ability to work collectively
- Improve the image and reputation of the West Midlands
- Maximise the effectiveness of local government

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The West Midlands Leaders Board is a statutory body which will play a key role in the development of the region's economy, future spatial planning and transport provision. It is important that the City Council influences these strategic issues and is represented on the Leaders Board.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The Council's representative on the West Midlands Leaders Board is Councillor Taylor. There have been four meetings held and Councillor Taylor attended all four.

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

West Midlands Leaders' Board Statement of intent

http://www.wmleadersboard.gov.uk/media/upload/Library/corporate%20publications/Manifesto_final1_web.pdf

Location

Council House, Room 60