



Coventry City Council

7.9

Public report

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 Regional Assembly 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 Regional Assembly for 2009/10 and gives details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The West Midlands Regional Assembly ceased to exist from 31 March 2010 and so the council no longer sends representatives. It is recommended that the council sends a representative to its replacement body, the new West Midlands Leaders' Board.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) was responsible for developing and co-ordinating a strategic vision for improving the quality of life in the region, setting priorities and delivering regional strategies. The Assembly had specific responsibilities range from business and economic development through to social inclusion, and regional planning through to the environment.
- 3.2 The WMRA was also the Regional Planning Body, working closely with the region's local authorities to formulate and deliver a planning strategy that works effectively across the region and it is responsible for the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 3.3 The Assembly also managed the strategic review of Advantage West Midlands, the regional development agency, co-ordinating the views of the region to inform the policies and work of Advantage West Midlands. In addition the WMRA was a key consultee for national government on regional and national policy issues.
- 3.4 The Treasury Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration recommended that Regional Assemblies should cease to exist in 2010 with the role of developing an Integrated Strategy for Spatial Planning, Transport and Economic Development passing to Regional Development Agencies and a regional Local Authorities Leaders' Board. These changes were included in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act and came into force on 1 April 2010.

- 3.5 Key activities for the Assembly in its final year included the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy and winding down its activities.
- 3.6 The West Midlands Regional Assembly has been replaced by the West Midlands Leaders Board.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The West Midlands Assembly has now ceased to exist so there will be no future appointments made.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 The Council's representatives on this Assembly are Councillors Taylor and Mutton with Councillors Foster and Duggins as alternates. Four meetings were held of which Councillor Taylor attended three and Councillor Mutton two.
- 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

Location Council House, Room 60