

To
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

8th December 2010

Subject
Report back on a Visit to Brussels, Belgium to Sign the Covenant of Mayors

1 Recommendation

- 1.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to note the report of the visit by the then Cabinet Member (Climate Change, Housing and Sustainability), Councillor Nigel Lee, to Brussels for the signing ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors scheme on 10th February 2009. The Cabinet Member attended in place of the then Lord Mayor who was unable to attend due to other commitments in Dresden.
- 1.2 The delay in reporting back on this visit is due to the departure in September 2009 of the employee who led on arranging this visit.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Covenant of Mayors is an ambitious European Commission initiative which engages local authorities and their citizens in taking the lead in tackling climate change. Signatories to the Covenant of Mayors make a voluntary and unilateral commitment to go beyond EU objectives in terms of reduction in CO₂ emissions. Covenant signatories aim to reduce their CO₂ emissions by more than 20% by 2020 through energy efficiency and renewable energy actions. To reach this objective, local authorities commit to:
- Prepare a baseline emission inventory which details the sources of CO₂ in the area,
 - Submit a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), approved by the council within a year of signing up to the initiative, and outlining the measures and policies they will implement to achieve their targets;
 - Publish regularly - every two years after submission of their SEAP - implementation reports stating the degree of implementation of the programme and the interim results;
 - Promote their activities and involve residents and stakeholders, including organising local energy days;
 - Spread the message of the Covenant of Mayors, in particular by encouraging other local authorities to join and by contributing to the major events (i.e. annual Covenant of Mayors ceremonies and thematic workshops).
- 2.2 In January 2009 the Lord Mayor and Corporate Management Board agreed that Coventry should become the first city to sign the Covenant of Mayors pledge. The ceremony was to take place on 10th February 2009 at the European Parliament and would involve the mayors of more than 120 European cities making a simultaneous commitment.

2.3 The City Council would gain significant credibility by demonstrating its commitment to tackling climate change at a European level and would gain from networking with other cities with longer term experience of carbon reduction activities.

3 Cost of attending

The costs for attending were as follows:

Eurostar rail fare plus accommodation	£182.95
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The costs were met from a budget within the Sustainability Team budget, then part of the City Services Directorate (now City Services and Development Directorate).

4 Benefits


Benefits include:

- Gaining significant credibility regionally, nationally and EU-wide as being one of the first UK cities to sign up to the Covenant and demonstrate commitment to tackling climate change.
- To be part of a permanent network with other cities in the UK and EU to share information on addressing climate change issues and to apply good practices across these cities and beyond to improve energy efficiency significantly in the urban environment
- Potentially being able to access additional low-cost funding from the European Investment Bank to support ground-breaking energy efficiency and sustainable energy investment programmes.

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City Services and Development Directorate
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CONFERENCES/SEMINARS
AUTHORITY FOR ATTENDANCE

THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR COUNCILLORS (FOR ATTENDANCE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE U.K.) AND FOR EMPLOYEES (OUTSIDE THE U.K. ONLY OR, IF ACCOMPANYING A COUNCILLOR, INSIDE THE UK)

1. Title of Conference	Ceremony for signing Covenant of Mayors (and supporting events for European Union Sustainable Energy Week)
2. Organising Body	ManagEnergy (European Commission initiative)
3. Location	European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium
4. Date(s)	10 th February, 2009 (outward travel on 9 th Feb)
5. Councillor(s) recommended to attend	Councillor Nigel Lee
6. Employee(s) recommended to attend	N/A
7. Cost per person, including travel, etc (Note: If total cost is less than £100, formal Cabinet/Cabinet Member approval is not required)	Eurostar & accommodation - £182.95
8. Is participation at this event as part of a group	NO (on behalf of the Lord Mayor)
9. If so, how many people IN TOTAL will be attending the event as part of that group	1
10. Is there anyone travelling with the Member, officer or group in relation to whom any of the costs of travel, accommodation or any other expense will be paid for by a Member or officer. If "YES" please state number.	NO
11. Source of Funding (FIS Code)	HE 51007
12. What are the reasons for attendance and what benefits to the City Council are expected from attendance	The Lord Mayor + Corporate Management Board agreed that Coventry should become the first UK city to sign the EU's Covenant of Mayors pledge. This ceremony is the official signing of that pledge, along with 120 European cities. The City Council will gain significant credibility by demonstrating commitment to Climate Change at a European level and will gain from networking with cities in Europe with longer term experience of Climate Change activities. Completed By/Signed:  M.A. STOKES Date: 19-JAN-2009

13. Is this conference part of an overall project involving further visits in the future?	YES The Covenant of Mayors will require annual attendance at an event – likely to be in Brussels.
14. Recommendation of Cabinet Member/ Cabinet/Chair of any other City Council Committee	YES/ NO
(a) Are you satisfied that there is a genuine reason for attendance and genuine benefit for the Council?	YES/ NO
(b) Will Councillor attendance affect the decision-making processes of the Council?	YES/NO
(c) Is attendance recommended?	YES/ NO Signed: <i>Nyrdal Lee</i> Date: 27/1/09
15. Cabinet Member's recommendation	YES/NO Signed: <i>D. Lee</i> Date: 23/1/09
16. Leader's recommendation	YES/NO Signed: <i>M</i> Date: 25/1/2009
17. Person responsible for booking conference following approval of attendance	Name: Ruth Jeffery Department: City Services Directorate (PA service to Cllrs Lee and Noonan) Telephone No: 024 7683 1705

THIS FORM SHOULD NOW BE RETURNED TO THE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER AND WORKFORCE SERVICES (Room 59)

FOR CUSTOMER AND WORKFORCE SERVICES DIRECTORATE'S USE ONLY

Decision	Cabinet Member/Cabinet
APPROVED / NOT APPROVED	Date:

Notification to:	<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>DATE</u>
(a) Officer responsible for booking conference		
(b) Councillor attending		
(c) Member of Management Board		
(d) Members' Services		