
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

6th April 2011

Report of
Councillor Mutton

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Councils (formerly the West Midlands Leaders Board) 2010-2011

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 West Midlands Councils (formerly known as the West Midlands Leaders Board) and gives details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the council continues to send the Leader of the Council as the Council's representative to the West Midlands Councils.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 West Midlands Councils brings together all 33 local authorities in the West Midlands Region to provide a strong, coherent voice for local government and to promote the West Midlands on regional, national and international issues (particularly in Europe). It has replaced the former West Midlands Leaders Board and West Midlands Local Government Association and it is funded through subscriptions and income from services.
- 3.2 One of the main aims of West Midlands Councils is to facilitate local authorities working together at a sub-regional or regional level where a collective approach would bring about economic, social and environmental prosperity and give added value. West Midlands Councils works with a range of partners including the Local Government Employers and the Local Government Association.
- 3.3 West Midlands Councils is working to deliver and build on the agreed priorities of the former West Midlands Leaders Board to:
- 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

3.4 West Midlands Councils provides a range of support services for local authorities including the Regional Recruitment Portal. It supports the Regional Employers Organisation and is responsible, alongside trades unions, for servicing and supporting the West Midlands Provincial Council.

3.5 All 33 of the West Midlands local authorities are represented by their Leaders the West Midlands Councils Full Council which meets every six months as a decision making body

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 West Midlands Councils is the only regional organisation that brings all the region's local authorities together. Although this body no longer has any statutory function it enables the City Council to work with other local authorities to develop a strategic understanding and approach to the issues and interests of the wider West Midlands region and to work together to promote those shared interests for the benefit of the city of Coventry and its residents.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The Council's representative on the West Midlands Councils General Council is Councillor John Mutton.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper:	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	Customer & Workforce Services Directorate, CH 60

West Midlands Council's website - <http://www.wmleadersboard.gov.uk/home>