

Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

15th June 2011

Report of

Councillor Mrs Linda Bigham

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies--Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board 2010/2011

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee notes the achievements of the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board that has received support from three Councillors, of which the Cabinet Member for City Development is Chair of this Board.
- 2.2 It is also recommended that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee notes that the Enterprising Coventry programme has ended, so the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board will be formally decommissioned in May 2011.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Enterprising Coventry was Coventry's Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) programme. Coventry was one of 20 areas across the country to secure LEGI funding and the only one in the West Midlands. The successful bid resulted in funding of over £19m between April 2006 and March 2011, to deliver a programme of activities aimed at increasing entrepreneurship and employment in the city.
- 3.2 The three key aims of the Enterprising Coventry programme were:
- To support people wanting to start their own business.
 - To support existing businesses to grow.
 - To help people move into employment.
- 3.3 Coventry City Council is the accountable body for the programme.
- 3.4 The programme faced a time of dynamic, economic change including the worst recession since the 1930's. Despite these challenging times, Enterprising Coventry successfully flexed its approach to changing priorities and ensured that local people and businesses continued to be enterprising, delivering some significant achievements:
- 893 people were supported to start up a new enterprise.

- On average, 64% of new businesses were still trading after 12 months.
- 1295 businesses were assisted with one to one tailored support.
- This support helped to generate £8.94m in new sales for local businesses.
- City Council expenditure with local businesses increased from 14% (2005) to 26% (2009).
- Inward Investment activity attracted 61 new investments and business relocations to the city.
- 1025 new jobs were created.
- 2585 people were assisted into work through intensive one to one employment support.
- 445 people were assisted into work placements with a range of employers.
- People were supported with debt, housing, health, skills and confidence issues, enabling them to move into economic activity.
- The 2585 employment outcomes delivered by the programme are estimated to have saved the Government £44m in welfare benefit costs.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 By appointing representatives to the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board the Council has:

- Provided a direct link between the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board and the Accountable Body, ensuring that the risk of breaching funding guidelines was minimised.
- Ensured that the City Council as a partner, was able to influence the decisions taken by the Board.
- Ensured that the City Council as a partner, could add value and establish strategic links with the programme.
- Provided a direct link between Cabinet and the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board in terms of progress and performance updates.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Councillors Bigham (Chair), Ridley and Lakha are the City Council's representatives on the Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board.

5.2 Between April 2010 and March 2011, there were 5 meetings of the Board. Cllr Bigham has attended 5, Cllr Ridley attended 3 and Cllr Lakha attended 5. The final Enterprising Coventry Partnership Board meeting is planned for May 2011.

5.3 There is no remuneration associated with these appointments.

List of background papers

Proper officer: Councillor Mrs Bigham/Martin Yardley, Director of City Services and Development

Author:

Councillor Mrs Bigham

Telephone 024 7683 3156

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:

Ryan McHugh – City Services & Development Directorate

Andy Williams – City Services & Development Directorate

Papers open to Public Inspection

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Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies