
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

15th June 2011

Report of
Councillor Faye Abbott

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies - West Midlands Leaders Board - Member Development Steering Group 2010-2011

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the objectives and work of West Midlands Leaders Board - Member Development Steering Group over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Coventry City Council continues with commitment to appointment of lead elected member and lead officer appointment to the steering group and network.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Steering Group objectives: (taken from terms of reference of the steering group and network)

To

- Provide strategic leadership on behalf of the Region's local authorities with regard to championing the value of Member Development and its key role in improving the performance of local authorities.
- Act as the key reference group for advising the Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership in respect of the latter's investment and support for Member Development during the period 4/2008 – 3/2011 (Improvement and Efficiency investment is described in the West Midlands Regional Improvement & Efficiency Strategy).
- Provide collective and individual support to individual local authorities with regard to promoting the Member Development Charter; the benefits of engaging with development and learning opportunities; and raising awareness of the requirements and expectations experienced by elected Members in contemporary local government.

3.2 The Network's objectives:

To

- Develop and share best practice sub-regionally, regionally and nationally.
- Contribute to meeting the development needs of elected Members with regard to the development of elected Members, via shared commissioning and delivery of training; peer advice and the tailored support available through the Member Development Charter in the Region.
- Seek to increase the ambition of elected Members for their respective authorities and communities.

- Contribute to the intelligence needed to guide and influence the provision of tailored support delivered by both National and Regional providers or commissioned programmes.
- Contribute to meeting the development needs of Officers in their roles of supporting Members, including the provision of advice, development opportunities and peer support.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 Sharing best practice and knowledge in the area of member development on a regional level.
- 4.2 Ensuring best practice approach to member development is brought back to Coventry City Council.
- 4.3 Widens access to training for elected members in other areas within the West Midlands through the network.
- 4.4 Helping to reduce costs for councils where shared training is available.
- 4.5 Shows commitment of the authority to member development and the member development Charter.
- 4.6 Access to Shared training calendar used across member authorities

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 Coventry City Council representative on the West Midlands Leaders Board – Member Development Steering Group is Councillor Mrs Abbott. There have been two meetings held in the period May, 2010 to March, 2011 and Councillor Mrs Abbott attended one of the meetings.
- 5.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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Other contributors:
 None

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location CH59
Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies	