



Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

17th April, 2013

Report of

Councillor John Mutton

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Local Government Association General Assembly

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of the Local Government Association General Assembly over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council should continue its membership of the Local Government Association and make appointments to the General Assembly.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) was created in 1997 to promote the interests of English and Welsh local authorities and is a cross-party voluntary lobbying organisation. The LGA works on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government. It aims to promote better local government and lobby and campaign for changes in policy, legislation and funding on behalf of its member councils and the people and communities that they serve.
- 3.2 The members of the LGA include county councils, metropolitan district councils, English unitary authorities, London boroughs, shire district councils and Welsh unitary authorities. The LGA also represents fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities. In total, 423 local authorities are members of the LGA for 2012/13.
- 3.3 The LGA priority areas for 2012/13 are:
- Public service reform
 - Growth, jobs and prosperity
 - Funding for local government
 - Efficiency and productivity
 - Sector-led improvement
- 3.4 As a member of the Local Government Association the council has entitled to four representatives at General Assembly which meets once a year to hold its Annual General Meeting during the LGA Annual Conference and acts as the "parliament" of the LGA.

- 3.5 This year's LGA General Assembly formed part of the 2012 LGA Conference that was held at the ICC in Birmingham on 22-24 June 2012. The LGA Conference is an opportunity to lobby Ministers first hand, both in a cross party and political party way. Delegates met and networked with a number of Politicians and Senior Officers to gain a perspective of how different authorities are grappling with services common to all.
- 3.6 Two of Coventry's delegates spoke and were on workshop panels. Councillor John Mutton spoke at the 'In it Together' workshop and Councillor Ann Lucas spoke at the 'Be a Councillor' workshop. Delegates spread their attendance at simultaneous events to ensure full use was made of their presence. This included attending sessions with key speakers from national and local government covering Welfare Reform; the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and NHS reform.
- 3.7 Themes which ran throughout the LGA Conference in 2012 were 1) the economic crisis in general and jobs in particular 2) Local Government's disproportionate share of the pain as far as funding is concerned 3) the impending crisis in Adult Social Care.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The Council appoints members to the LGA General Assembly as a member of the LGA. There are a range of benefits to the Council arising from membership of the LGA. These include: access to information; comparative data and training for both members and officers; the ability to influence national policy development and collective lobbying of national government; access to a range of services including shared learning on service improvements and peer support.

5 What Financial Contribution Does the Council Make to this Organisation

- 5.1 The cost of the Council's LGA membership subscription for 2012/13 was £55,753.

6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 6.1 Coventry City Council's representatives on the LGA General assembly are Councillors Mutton, Duggins, Foster and Blundell. All four councillors attended the meeting held, which was on the 26th June 2012.
- 6.2 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: CH59