



Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

16th April, 2014

Report of

Councillor Ann Lucas

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 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, 421 local authorities are members of the LGA for 2013/14.
- 3.3 The LGA priority areas for 2013/14 are:
- Funding for local government
 - Economic growth, jobs and prosperity
 - Public service reform
- 3.4 The LGA is aiming for greater independence for local government and supports sector-led improvement. It aims to play a leading role in innovation and improvement to enable local authorities to make improvements for local people.
- 3.5 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.

- 3.6 This year's LGA General Assembly formed part of the 2013 LGA Conference that was held in Manchester 2-4 July 2013. 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.
- 3.7 This year's LGA conference was a huge slick information sharing exercise which is to be commended to Council. Speakers at the conference were thought provoking, engaging and contentious at times. Contacts were made with traffic signage and furniture companies which may prove fruitful. Contacts were also made with 'NICE' whose new role in Public Health may be of benefit to the City.
- 3.8 The LGA Conference gave an opportunity for the Leader and Chief Executive to be part of the national launch of the "Key Cities" report. Nineteen cities attended. This initiative aims to ensure that Core Cities do not dominate the national agenda, and so do not hamper Coventry's growth and regeneration plans.

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 2013/14 was £54,094.

6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 6.1 Coventry City Council's representatives on the LGA General Assembly are Councillors Mrs Lucas, Townshend, J Mutton and Blundell. The General Assembly met on the 2nd July, 2013 and Councillors Mrs Lucas, Townshend and Mutton each attended. Councillor Hetherington, the Council's representative on the LGA's Urban Commission, also attended the General Assembly.
- 6.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment.

List of background papers

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