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**Report to**

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

16<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

**Report of**

Councillor Ann Lucas

**Title**

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Joint Committee

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**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of the West Midlands Joint Committee over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Council is a member of the West Midlands Joint Committee through statute. It is recommended that the Council continue to make appointments to this body.

**3 Information on Work of Outside Body**

- 3.1 The West Midlands Joint Committee was set up in 1985 following the dissolution of the West Midlands County Council by the seven metropolitan district councils of the West Midlands: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Formally constituted under the powers given under the Local Government Act 1972, and updated by the Local Government Act 2000, the West Midlands Joint Committee is responsible for a range of specific strategic functions that were formerly undertaken by the West Midlands County Council.
- 3.2 The Joint Committee comprises seven voting members, one from each metropolitan district council. Key functions of the Joint Committee include: making nominations and appointments to a number of regional bodies; exercising the Districts' powers and rights as shareholders of Birmingham International Airport and the co-ordination of actions on important issues and to communicate these to central Government and other influential bodies.
- 3.3 Specific areas of activity include consultation and co-operation on matters affecting the seven districts with the West Midlands Joint Authorities including the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, West Midlands Police Authority/West Midlands Police and Crime Panel and the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.
- 3.4 Coventry City Council's voting representative on the West Midlands Joint Committee is Councillor Ann Lucas, Leader of the Council. Councillor Philip Townshend and Councillor John Blundell are observer members. Councillor Townshend is the council's substitute voting member.

3.5 Over the past year a particular area of activity has been consideration of transport issues including revisions to the governance of the West Midlands Independent Transport Authority (ITA); Rail Devolution and provision of evidence about the importance of regional airports to the Airports Commission.

#### **4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment**

4.1 The West Midlands Joint Committee is a formally constituted body that enables the West Midlands Metropolitan Districts to consider jointly key strategic issues and the allocation of funding that directly impacts on the people of Coventry. Under current Local Government arrangements it is a legislative requirement that Coventry City Council is a member of the West Midlands Joint Committee.

#### **5 What Financial Contribution Does the Council Make to this Organisation**

5.1 In 2013/14 Coventry City Council contributed £18,437 as its share of the costs of running the West Midlands Joint Committee.

#### **6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment**

6.1 Coventry City Council's representatives on the West Midlands Joint Committee from May 2013 are Councillors Mrs Lucas, Townshend and Blundell. Of the three meetings held from June 2013 to December 2013 inclusive Councillor Mrs Lucas attended all three of these meetings and Councillor Blundell one (the AGM).  
During the period January to May 2013 inclusive the Council's representatives were Councillors Mutton, Duggins and Foster and in this period two meetings were held with Councillors Mutton and Duggins attending one each and Councillor Foster attending both.

6.2 There is no remuneration associated with this 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