



Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination

16th July 2014

Report of
Councillor Lucas

Title
Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Employers 2013 - 2014

1 Purpose of the Report

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

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council continues to nominate a representative to the West Midlands Employers.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 West Midlands Employers is the regional employers' organisation bringing together 31 local authorities providing a single and coherent voice for local government to promote the West Midlands on regional & national issues.
- 3.2 Facilitating local authorities to work together at a sub-regional or regional level and acting as a central hub through which collective views can be drawn together and expressed.
- 3.3 One of the main aims of the West Midlands Employers is to provide a range of services to support and enhance the capacity of its member's organisations across all aspects of recruitment, management and development of their workforce. The body is funded through subscriptions and income from services.
- 3.4 West Midlands Employers has identified the following strategic aims for 2013 to 2016:
- Providing high quality services whilst delivering a 10% year on year reduction in West Midlands Employers member subscription rates.
 - Stronger engagement and take up of products and services.
 - Business growth through sustained levels of core membership to the organisation alongside a diversified customer base within and beyond the region.

- Continued identification, development and growth of shared service initiatives working in partnership with individual and groups of local authority and other public sector clients.
- Strong commercial ethos to ensure people and leadership services remain self-sustaining and have capacity for continued business growth.
- Stronger partnership working with other regional employer organisations.
- National recognised brand identify for West Midlands Employers.
- Strong sector led ownership across political and officer leadership.

3.5 West Midlands Employers also facilitate the sharing of information, experience and best practice across the region.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The West Midlands Employers organisation is the only regional organisation that brings together and represents all of the interests of the other West Midland local authorities. In doing so, they are able to act as a hub through which collective views on strategic matters can be drawn together and expressed at regional and national levels. The West Midlands Employer organisation also offer a range of activities to local authorities, these include, identifying, representing and advocating the views of member councils at national and EU level on such matters as national pay negotiations, emerging legislation and employment issues. They also maintain links with the Local Government Association and provide information on local government pay rates. The City Council is also able to benefit from having access to research data, benchmarking information, training and development opportunities and build strategic alliances and working partnerships in an attempt to address common priorities, deliver efficiencies and share experience and learning.

5 What Financial Contribution Does the Council Make to this Organisation

5.1 The City Council's annual subscription fee is £15,950.

6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

6.1 The Council's representative on the West Midlands Employers Organisation is Councillor Ann Lucas.

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