



**Agenda Item 13
Council – 4th December 2012**

**Recommendations from
Cabinet – 20th November 2012**

71. City Deal – Invitation to Participate in the Second Wave

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive, which sought approval to develop an expression of interest for a Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal for submission to the Cities and Policy Unit.

In July 2012, the Government agreed the first wave of City Deals with the eight largest cities outside London and their wider economic area. The purpose of City Deals was to drive local economic growth and jobs, with each one negotiated separately to produce bespoke agreements to reflect the different needs of their functional economic geography. City Deals were intended to be a transaction between cities and their wider area and central Government and aimed to give cities the powers and tools they need to drive local economic growth, unlock projects or initiatives that would boost economies, and strengthen local governance arrangements. The Cabinet noted that the City Deals agreed so far had focussed on investment, infrastructure (including transport), employment and skills.

The Government launched a second wave of City Deals on 29th October 2012 and, unlike the previous round, this would be a competitive process. The Government had advised that, to be successful, second wave deals needed to focus on a single economic issue requiring an 'innovative and transformative response'. Coventry and Warwickshire was one of the twenty places that had been invited to bring forward proposals for a City Deal in their area.

Cities and their wider economic area were asked to submit a draft expression of interest to the Cities Policy Unit in the Cabinet Office by 30th November 2012 to facilitate feedback and support from Government to develop the proposition in advance of the formal submission of expressions of interest by 15th January 2013. These would be assessed by Government with results announced in February 2013. Successful propositions would then go forward to a negotiations stage and it was expected that the final deals would be agreed by November 2013.

The Cabinet noted that early discussions with potential partners about the possible focus for a Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal had been based on the functional economic geography of Coventry and the wider area and the strengths and opportunities identified in existing regional economic analysis and strategies. Initial consideration of the potential theme of a City Deal highlighted the real opportunity for growth around advanced engineering and high-end manufacturing.

Whatever key theme the City Deal focuses on it was likely to result in the development of a range of policy responses which could include infrastructure investment including transport, support for key regeneration projects, job creation and skills development, support for business and trade, and the provision of housing. It was therefore recommended that the City Council develop an expression of interest in a City Deal for submission to Government.

It was acknowledged that this work would need to proceed with pace and involve a range of partner organisations. It was therefore proposed that a Cabinet Advisory Panel – City Deal be set up to direct this work, to be chaired by the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance). Membership of the Advisory Panel should reflect the progress of the City Deal and the partners involved. In addition to key Cabinet Members it was likely to include the Chair of Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and Leaders from the neighbouring local authorities that were taking part in the development of the City Deal.

As the timetable for the submission for an expression of interest was very tight to meet the required deadlines it was recommended that a draft expression of interest be submitted to the Cities Policy Unit by 30th November 2012 and therefore Council would be asked for their retrospective approval of recommendation 3b within the report. Following discussions with Government, this submission would be developed this into an expression of interest for submission to Government by the deadline of 15 January 2013.

RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Cabinet recommend that Council:

- (1) Approve that Coventry City Council develop an expression of interest for a Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal**
- (2) Set up a Cabinet Advisory Panel – City Deal, chaired by the Leader of the Council, to direct this work and ensure that the development of a City Deal meets the economic needs of the City**
- (3) Delegate authority to the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Cabinet Member (City Development) and Chief Executive to:**
 - a) identify proposed partners for the City Council and enter into discussions with them and Government about its submission of an expression of interest;**
 - b) prepare a draft expression of interest for a Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal for submission to the Cities Policy Unit by 30 November 2012;**
 - c) submit an expression of interest for a Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal to Government by 15 January 2013 and/or meet any amended submission timetables;**

- d) enter into discussions and negotiations with Government after the submission of an expression of interest to further develop and finalise the content of the City Deal prior to formal approval of Council by November 2013.**